

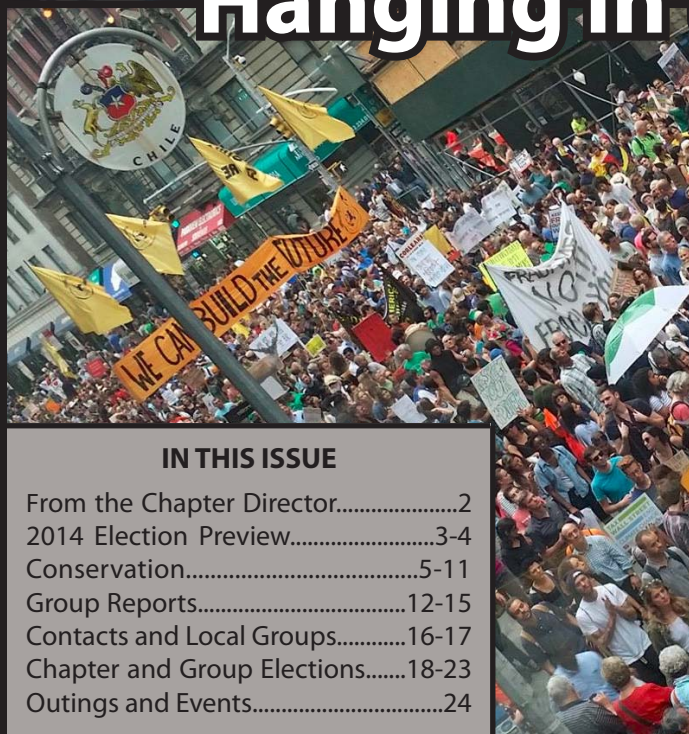


# Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



## Hanging in the Balance



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# As Critical Election Approaches, More Issues Than Ever Hang in the Balance

By Colleen Kiernan

When we got together for the editorial meeting for this issue of the Georgia Sierran, it was anything but clear what the theme of this issue should be. Our team listed our campaign priorities and realized that all of them (Beyond Coal/Climate/Energy, Transportation, Wildlands, Political) would make good themes, since all of them have issues that we have reported on in these pages that are not yet resolved. So, we focus on where we are at the end of 2014: with more issues than ever hanging in the balance.

By the next issue of the Sierran, the November elections will be resolved, even if both the Governor's race and the Senate race go into runoffs. Voters in Clayton County will have decided whether to participate in the first service expansion for MARTA in its 40 year history. Georgia EPD will likely have approved the air permit for a controversial compressor station that will be needed to support the construction of a 460-mile natural gas pipeline that would run through some of the most sensitive wetlands in Southwest Georgia.. The U.S.



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

EPA will be done taking public input on the first ever rule to limit carbon from power plants, with the final rule

expected in June of 2015. The U.S. Forest Service will likely have taken action on the Scoping Notice they issued in May on the Coopers Creek Watershed project, to drastically cut 3,500 acres of our Chattahoochee National Forest. The Georgia Legislature will be in full swing in its second session of its two year cycle and will determine the fate of our coastal marsh protections, the Floridan Aquifer, transportation funding and many other issues.

So, with all of these issues up for resolution, now is a most critical time to get informed and engage. And part of your responsibility is to engage with others around you: your friends, family and neighbors. The future of so many things depend on it!

## 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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If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you'd like to switch to the electronic edition please contact the Chapter office at **404-607-1262 x.221** or [georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org). Our budget – and our trees! – will thank you.

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

# Stark Contrast in Governor's Race

When it comes to the environment, the 2014 Georgia Governor's race is a study in contrasts.

Sierra Club endorsee **Jason Carter** brings a strong record on conservation issues. "Once our natural resources have been depleted, there is no going back," says Carter. "That's why I am a proud advocate for our environment, and have fought against proposals that threaten our coast, our rivers, and our water supply."

Governor **Nathan Deal**? As a member of Congress, Deal amassed a lifetime score of 16 percent from the League of Conservation Voters.

Here's how the two candidates stack up on some of today's most pressing environmental issues:

### On Clean Energy

**Nathan Deal** is the only Governor on the Atlantic Coast not to join the Bureau of Ocean Energy's "Smart from the Start" program to begin planning for offshore wind, which will leave Georgia behind once the economics for offshore wind make it viable.

**Jason Carter** says, "I've championed legislation to make it easier for consumers to install solar panels. Making it easier for consumers to access renewable energy isn't just critical for the environment – it is untapped potential for our state's economy."

### On Transportation

**Nathan Deal:** "[Snowjam was] an isolated incident. I don't think you could ever base justification for very expensive, difficult-to-sustain rail transportation on one or two ice storms—no matter where they happened. It has to be a sustained demand that can justify the expenditures that you have to make on it. Because just expanding MARTA, for example, that's a huge expenditure just to expand the line several miles. I think the potential is there for MARTA moving into areas like Clayton County, since Clayton County has shut down their bus system. But before you see any expansion of that significantly, it's going to take the general public's attitude that they want it. And right now, for a good many people—even in the



*continued on following page*

## Georgia Sierra Club 2014 General Election Endorsements

**Governor of Georgia** Jason Carter  
**United States Senate** Michelle Nunn

### U.S. House of Representatives

**4th District** Hank Johnson  
**5th District** John Lewis  
**13th District** David Scott

### Georgia State Senate

**SD 2, Savannah** Lester Jackson  
**SD 5, Tucker** Curt Thompson  
**SD 10, Decatur** Emanuel Jones  
**SD 15, Columbus** Ed Harbison  
**SD 34, Riverdale** Valencia Seay  
**SD 35, Atlanta** Donzella James  
**SD 36, Atlanta** Nan Orrock  
**SD 38, Atlanta** Horacena Tate  
**SD 39, Atlanta** Vincent Fort  
**SD 41, Tucker** Steve Henson  
**SD 42, Atlanta** Elena Parent  
**SD 43, Lithonia** Ronald Ramsey

### Georgia House of Representatives

**HD 42, Smyrna** Stacey Evans  
**HD 53, Smyrna** Sheila Jones  
**HD 54, Atlanta** Bill Bozarth  
**HD 56, Atlanta** "Able Mable" Thomas  
**HD 58, Atlanta** Simone Bell  
**HD 59, Atlanta** Margaret Kaiser  
**HD 77, Riverdale** Darryl Jordan  
**HD 81, Atlanta** Scott Holcomb  
**HD 86, Stone Mountain** Michele Henson  
**HD 93, Lithonia** Dar'shun Kendrick  
**HD 96, Duluth** Pete Marin  
**HD 111, Stockbridge** Jim Nichols  
**HD 125, Augusta** Earnest Smith  
**HD 136, Columbus** Carolyn Hugley  
**HD 137, Junction City** Debbie Buckner  
**HD 142, Macon** Nikki Randall

# Despite Keystone Stance, Michelle Nunn Deserves Our Support

By Colleen Kiernan

A lot has been made of the potential of the Georgia Senate race to determine whether the Republicans or Democrats control the Senate, yet another “hanging in the balance” question to go along with the theme of this issue. Yet, it is precisely because the race between Michelle Nunn and David Perdue is being treated in the media as if it is nothing but a contest of “red vs. blue” that I thought it was particularly important to explain the substance behind the Sierra Club’s endorsement of Michelle Nunn. The Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club takes our responsibility to endorse the best candidate for the environment very seriously. This endorsement reflects a great deal of thought. This was not an endorsement driven by partisan interests, nor was it taken tepidly. We are truly hoping that you will take our recommendation to heart and will actively support Ms. Nunn’s efforts to get elected.

I know that many of you have been working hard against the Keystone XL and are very unhappy with Michelle’s position on that issue. No doubt, she’s



Photo courtesy Georgia River Network

not going to earn a 100% rating on the League of Conservation Voters Scorecard. But the question before us was whether we had one candidate we could trust to listen to us, to show leadership on matters we care about, and who will generally be a reliable vote on environmental issues. We have done our homework on this one. Our chapter leadership as well as our national volunteer Political Committee feel absolutely confident endorsing Michelle Nunn as the best candidate in the race to represent

Georgia in the U.S. Senate.

We put Ms. Nunn through a rigorous process where she provided position statements on important issues to the Sierra Club and also gave us the opportunity to interview her. The materials she provided to us were very lawyerly, leaving her with a good deal of wiggle room. I personally went into the interview process with some serious doubts. But once we got past staff and formalities and began to talk freely with Ms. Nunn, we discovered broad and deep alignment with her point of view. Just as important, we found issues where we were clearly going to be able to work well together. Two major ones emerged.

First, she believes in science and that means she believes that humans are causing climate change. She believes that EPA has both the knowledge and the authority to protect public health and she supports various rulemaking that EPA is undertaking that are supported by both our policy and science.

Second, she is a huge nature geek and interested in protecting and expanding our public lands. She was bursting with enthusiasm about the proposed expansion of the Ocmulgee National Monument near Macon and wanted us to know that if she was elected, she was all in to speed that up in any way possible. When we told her about the 8,000 acres of potential additional wilderness in Georgia and how our neighbors in Tennessee have introduced legislation to protect theirs, she said that would be one of her top environmental priorities if she is elected.

Michelle has a fairly extensive environmental platform on her campaign website (<http://www.michellenunn.com/ideas/energy-conservation>). Contrast that with David Perdue’s environmental platform. The only environmental issue his campaign’s website touches on is “energy independence,” and he proposes that we loosen our domestic regulations and stop just short of saying “drill, baby, drill.”

### Governor’s Race, continued from previous page

metropolitan Atlanta area—that is not their attitude. (Atlanta Magazine Interview, Steve Fennessey 9/24/2014)

**Jason Carter:** “New transportation options have to be at the forefront of our state’s priorities. As governor, I will work with state, regional and local leaders to develop smart initiatives to increase our transit options, reduce traffic, and promote ride-sharing.”

### On Water Supply

**Jason Carter:** “I don’t have any personal financial interest in lakefront property.” (Debate 10/7/2014 Perry, GA)

**Nathan Deal:** “I’ve kept my promise to build reservoirs and water-saving

devices.” *Truth:* The Governor’s Water Supply Program (GWSP) awarded \$90.49 million in loans and \$9.06 million in state direct investment for eight projects that yielded little water but helped those well-connected real estate folks.

“Jason Carter has proven that he is the only candidate in the field willing to protect Georgia’s coast and environment,” says **Colleen Kiernan**, Georgia Chapter Director. “He has committed to supporting Georgia’s growing clean energy industries, which provide jobs while protecting our air and water. The Sierra Club will proudly mobilize our members to help Jason Carter win in November.”



# Sabal Trail Pipeline Remains a Threat to SW Georgia

By Mark Woodall

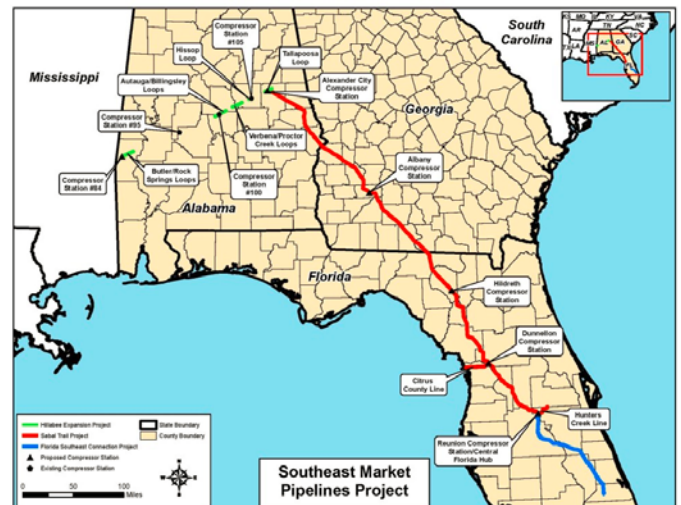
Citizens of southwest Georgia have been making progress to a clean energy future. In December of 2011, after a 10-year battle, the proposed 1200-megawatt Longleaf coal plant in Early County was cancelled. In 2012, Power4Georgians pulled the plug on a proposed 850-megawatt coal burner near Fitzgerald in Ben Hill County. More recently, Georgia Power announced that the Plant Mitchell coal plant of 155 megawatts south of Albany would be closed by April 16, 2015, the compliance date for the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards Rule.

Unfortunately, the greed of another fossil fuel industry has led to a proposal to sacrifice the people of Albany for the profit to be made by building a third natural gas pipeline to Florida. The proposed \$3 billion Sabal Trail pipeline would stretch some 460 miles from Alexander City, Alabama, through Albany, GA, and down to the central Florida hub. Sabal Trail would enable fracked shale gas from such places as the Marcellus Shale of Pennsylvania to be moved to Florida. The pipeline is for the benefit of Florida Power and Light and Duke Energy and would be built by Spectra Energy of Houston, Texas, a former Duke subsidiary.

Florida Power and Light's fuel mix for electricity is already about 70 percent natural gas with nuclear at 17 percent, purchased power at 7 percent and coal at 5 percent with solar at 0.06 percent. As the Florida Chapter energy leaders explained to us, Florida Power and Light doesn't need more gas; they need to get serious about solar energy and energy efficiency. So the first reason to reject the pipeline is that it is unnecessary.

At a four-hour public meeting in Albany on September 29, a dozen citizens expressed their opposition to the proposed pipeline. The proposed siting of the only Sabal Trail compressor station in Georgia was a target for much of the anger and outrage. The compressor station would be built next to a minority neighborhood, across the street from Beacon Baptist Church and next to the City of Albany's water well field that supplies the drinking water for about 75,000 people. To add further controversy, Sabal Trail has already paid over \$10,000 an acre for the 79 acres proposed for the compressor station. As Dougherty County Attorney Spencer Lee observed in the Albany Herald, "... they bought the land prior to regulatory approval, so it appears they're confident the process will come out in their favor."

Perhaps looking to the vast profits that could be made from exporting the fracked gas, Sabal Trail certainly seems to be paying big bucks to secure the regulatory approval. Spectra Energy has made a \$10,000 donation to the Nathan Deal reelection campaign and retained the services of McKenna, Long and Aldridge, a law firm that is also a political powerhouse in



Georgia. Chuck McMullen, a managing director of the Atlanta office of McKenna, Long and Aldridge, was at the September 29 meeting in Albany, and I believe I saw Blake Ashbee, former Deputy Executive Counsel to Gov. Deal but now with McKenna, Long, in the back of the room in Albany as well.

There are many reasons to oppose the Sabal Trail pipeline. It is unnecessary and will be of no benefit to Georgia. Giant Florida utilities will profit from the destruction of Georgia's agricultural land, wildlife, forests, wetlands and rivers. Georgian's private property will be taken by eminent domain leaving nothing but misery and possible contamination of groundwater. Most outrageous of all, the compressor station is proposed for a minority neighborhood in the largest city along the proposed Georgia route.

As Flint Riverkeeper founding board chair Paul DeLoach told the Albany public meeting: "I'll give you an alternate route for the pipeline....out of Georgia!" Former Dougherty County Commissioner Gloria Gaines told the pipeline company that they had betrayed the community's trust by buying the land for the compressor station before getting any permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the project. Furthermore, former Commissioner Gaines told Sabal Trail that if corporations are people, she wanted to see their souls.

It's up to us to put pressure on the deciders such as FERC to deny permission for this pipeline. For more info, go to [www.spectrabusters.org](http://www.spectrabusters.org) and [www.sierraclub.org/naturalgas](http://www.sierraclub.org/naturalgas). Sabal Trail is project PF14-1-000. Ask your member of Congress to tell FERC that the people and natural resources of Georgia should not be sacrificed for the greed of Florida Power and Light. Constituents of Congressman Sanford Bishop should call 229-439-8067 and those in the district of Congressman Austin Scott should call 229-396-5175.

# Atlanta Rocks EPA Climate Hearing with Support!



**By Seth Gunning**

Of the ten warmest years on record, nine have occurred since 2000, and 2014 is on track to be the hottest year ever recorded.

The consensus of global climate science shows that in order to keep our planet's climate stable enough to sustain human civilization we must reduce levels of carbon dioxide pollution below 350 part per million in the atmosphere. As of this writing, we are at 400 parts per million and rising.

That is the backdrop of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which will lower carbon pollution from US power plants 30% by 2030. The proposal is a substantive if not long overdue step forward, and while it won't solve the problem by itself, it signifies major progress and sends a strong signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is ready to get serious on climate.

After announcing the rule in June, US EPA hosted four public hearings on the proposed Clean Power Plan to take public comment on our nation's first major step to stop climate change causing pollution. EPA Region IV, headquartered in Atlanta, home to both Southern Company and a broad network of citizens dedicated to building a just and sustainable clean energy future, hosted the first of the four hearings on July 29th.

That sunny Tuesday, over 700 people—many traveling from Louisville, Lexington, Eastern Kentucky, Memphis,

Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Asheville, Greenville, Columbia, Charleston, Savannah, LaGrange, Augusta, Athens, Florida, Alabama and around metro Atlanta—prayed, rallied, played, marched, and testified together in downtown Atlanta to send a powerful message EPA and the rest of the country that even the southeast, the region historically most heavily reliant on coal, is ready to embrace progress.

Over the course of the two day hearing, 248 civil rights leaders, health professionals, first-responders, clean energy business-people, laborers, mothers, fathers, miners, and young people testified in support of a strong standard to reduce dangerous carbon pollution. More than 50 testimonials were also taken on film outside the hearing rooms. Opposing the rule, the oil-industry backed Americans for Prosperity coached 83—mostly politicians and utility executives—to speak against the plan. Opponents lacked the diversity of supporters; all but four were older white men.

Our broad coalition held a morning press conference with a backdrop of 200 concerned citizens. Speakers included Civil Rights veteran Rev. Gerald Durley, NAACP-Georgia President Francys Johnson, Nobel Peace Prize winner and TVA board member Marilyn Brown, Atlanta Fire Department Chief Kelvin Cochran, National League of Women Voters President Elisabeth Macnamara, environmentalist Laura Turner Seydel and our very own Beyond Coal Campaign Director Mary Anne Hitt!





A rally was held in Woodruff Park at noon with another all-star cast of speakers and performers. After the rally, Mary Anne Hitt and Dr. Rev. Gerald Durley led the largest march environmentalists have organized in memory through downtown Atlanta— alongside Georgia State Rep “Able” Mable Thomas, Louisville city councilwoman Attica Scott, Gary Harris of the Emerald Cities Collaborative, leaders from Jobs with Justice, SCLC, the Moral Monday Movement back to Centennial Park, right in front of where the hearing was taking place. It was a powerful moment to see 700 southerners from all walks of life taking to our streets demanding clean air for our kids, clean energy jobs for our workforce, and climate action now. Along the march route, Americans for Prosperity was also holding a “Rally to Stop the EPA Power Grab.” Roughly 30 people, including members of the Georgia Public Service Commission, were in attendance.

None of these remarkable events could have happened without the vital, tireless, and endless efforts of our Climate Action team, made up of over 40 volunteers who came together in late June for a Climate Action Activist Training Camp, to get trained on recruitment, mobilization, leadership development, and media/messaging. Since that training, the team successfully held 25 recruitment events in the month of July, generating over 1,200 petition signatures!

Comments on the clean power plan can be made until December 1st, visit [www.Sierraclub.org](http://www.Sierraclub.org) and look for the “Take Action” link to write your comment today!

## Georgia Sierra Takes Manhattan

**By Dan Everett**  
**Athens, Ga.**

The atmosphere was electric in New York City on September 21, as 400,000 festive marchers gathered for the largest demonstration on climate change in history, in support of the international community working to binding agreements to ensure strong decisive action at the UN Climate Summit. The Georgia Sierra Club was there!

It was an epic road trip; our bus left Atlanta on Saturday afternoon, picked up more marchers in Athens, and continued all night, arriving in Manhattan at 7 AM after a 19-hour ride. Despite the grueling trip, our marchers were in good spirits. We took the time to get to know each other on the way up. It was a diverse crowd, ranging from activist veterans in their 60s and up to college students from Kennesaw, North Georgia College, UGA, and even a high school student from Alabama. The Kennesaw students were able to travel thanks to the generosity to the professor of their Ecofeminism class, who donated her own travel funds from her university to the students for this trip. Even the relief bus driver took the microphone to declare his solidarity and urge us on.

Staggering off the bus in New York, we were treated to breakfast sandwiches and coffee by Congregation Beth Jushurun, a beautiful old synagogue on the Upper West Side. Thanks to our hosts, we were rested, refreshed, and ready for the big event.

Just before the actual march, the national Sierra Club held a mini-rally



featuring national Beyond Coal coordinator Mary Anne Hitt, noted development economist Jeffrey Sachs, and sing-alongs led by members of the late Pete Seeger’s Riverkeeper group. Various political groups held their own mini-rallies and hawked their newspapers, buttons, and other accessories of the rich New York City political scene.

The march itself took almost two hours to start, due to the amazingly huge turnout. Once it got started, it became a moving carnival with marching bands, giant puppets, and songs and chants everywhere. The March route took us right through Times Square and the great skyscrapers of Manhattan. Supporters cheered us through open windows as we walked by. Being there, we could not help believing that the climate turning point may be at hand.

For us on the street, it was an amazing, exhilarating experience. Even the 19-hour return bus ride – two nights on the bus in a row – could not dampen our spirits. By the time we returned to Georgia, we were all in need of a shower and a nap, but we had organized ourselves for the campaign to tame and reverse climate change once and for all.

# The Worst “Watershed” Project You’ve Never Heard Of

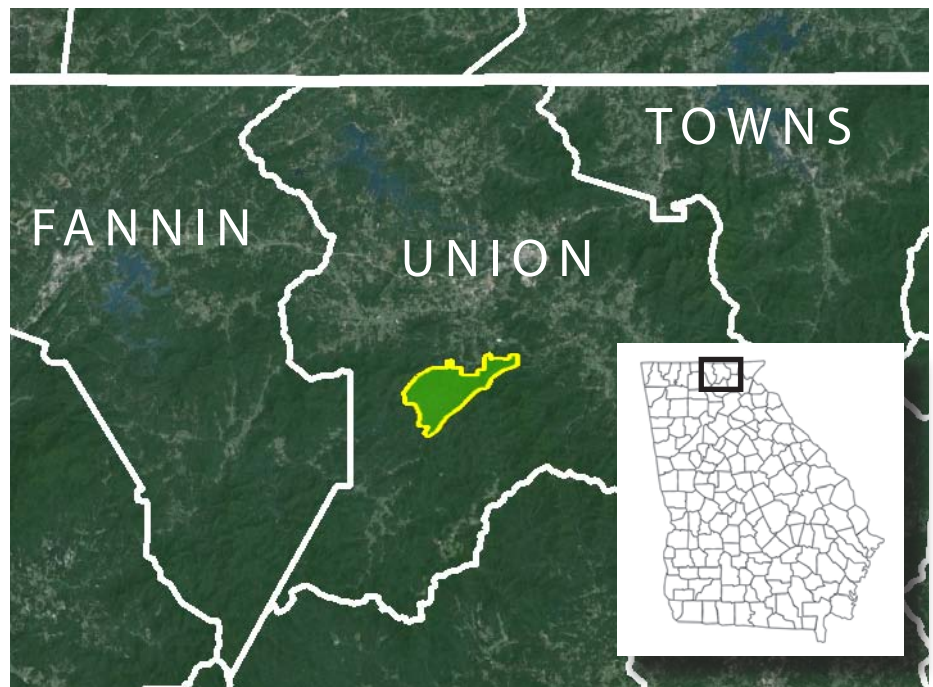
By Colleen Kiernan

Approximately 3,500 acres of some of the most biologically rich stands of the Chattahoochee National Forest face drastic clearing under a new plan from the US Forest Service. The Coopers Creek Watershed Project, announced in a May scoping letter sent by the Service’s Blue Ridge District, would cut or heavily thin an area situated in the Cooper Creek, Coosa Creek, and Youngcane Creek watersheds in Union County, Georgia. Over 1,500 acres of the project site are dominated by healthy stands of oaks, many of which are over 100 years old.

A year after the US Forest Service named the new Forest Supervisor for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, Betty Mathews, it announces this vast and complicated “watershed” project, the worst we’ve seen in decades, that is essentially an extensive logging project involving 125 “stands” of timber and seven different “treatments.”

These treatments include oak and pine “thinning” that, while not technically clear cutting, amount to the removal 112 acres of 100-year old oak trees and 843 acres of white pine, with some mature oak mixed in. “Canopy thinning” proposes to remove up to half of the trees in given areas, meaning 466 acres of Yellow poplar and various oak (Chestnut, White, Northern Red) will be cleared.

Much of this thinning would depend on the application of dangerous herbicides, which are ineffective when not properly applied, to prevent cut trees from resprouting. To be effective, these herbicides must be applied to tree stumps immediately after the trees are cut, which requires a separate crew to follow the loggers. In an ongoing project on Brawley Mountain, the Forest Service judged this proper technique to be too expensive, and cost considerations might lead the Forest Service in a similar direction at Cooper Creek. The



improper use of dangerous chemical would only make this project worse.

The thinning also requires the use of heavy equipment and thus presents the need to build large roads. These roads contribute to runoff that would degrade the pristine streams in this region. Southern Appalachian brook trout living in this watershed depend on cool, clear water, and increased runoff caused by new roads and forest clearing would jeopardize their existence. The use of heavy equipment also leads to devastating soil compaction that transforms the soil from a healthy and productive ecosystem to something resembling concrete where nothing is able to grow.

The Forest Service’s stated goals for this project include protecting native plants, restoring wildlife habitat, and improving forest health, but in reality this project threatens to significantly disrupt one of Georgia’s healthiest ecosystems through prescribed burns and the removal of important food sources for wildlife.

The project calls for prescribed burning on over 253 acres to remove various oak species for the purpose of

improving “Early Successional Forest Habitat” dominated by yellow poplar. Some pines would also be cut for this purpose.

The goal of “Woodland Restoration” would be accomplished on 641 acres through the use of ground-based equipment and post-harvest herbicide treatments aimed at preventing the resprouting of hardwoods like yellow poplar and red maple. Species selected for retention in these areas include fire-tolerant hardwoods and yellow pines. Mid-story Treatment and Release are the last two treatments, which together cover the last 1316 acres.

Other concerns include:

- Over 1,900 acres of logging is proposed in the watershed of Cooper Creek and several tributaries. These waters support native Southern Appalachian brook trout that depend on clear, cool water.

- Much of the proposed heavy “thinning” - logging up to half the existing forest cover - is proposed on steep slopes that are highly inappropriate for commercial timber harvest.

*continued on following page*



# Water Policy at Forefront for 2015 Legislature

By Neill Herring

The General Assembly may not meet again until Monday, Jan 12, 2015, but critical issues of water policy are already under discussion for action in the session.

The first issue that requires resolution is a familiar subject: vegetated buffers on state waters. This issue has become urgent thanks a decision by Gov. Nathan Deal's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Director, Jud Turner. On Earth Day, Director Turner chose to abandon a policy put in place about ten years ago by one of his predecessors, a finding that the state's coastal salt marshlands were "waters of the state," and thus were legally entitled to protection behind a 25-foot-wide vegetated buffer.

Mr. Turner determined that unless a water of the state is bounded by a point at which vegetation is "wrested" by the action of flowing water, there was no place from which a 25-foot buffer measurement can be taken, therefore, no buffer is required. This sweeping finding removed required buffers from not only salt marshes, but freshwater wetlands, and even many

miles of flowing streams in the "flatwoods" of south Georgia, where numerous rivers and creeks flow through densely vegetated forests and thickets, "wresting" none of it loose.

A decision by the Georgia Court of Appeals soon after the Earth Day Massacre found that the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act in fact does require a buffer on all "waters of the state," but the EPD has chosen to appeal that decision to the Georgia Supreme Court. What is needed here, and even EPD agrees, is a revision to the law that sets a point for waterside buffer measurement that covers all "waters of the state," not merely those that flow fast enough to wash out plants.

EPD wants to limit the measurement points to the fast flowing streams and the salt marsh, but that is all it wants to protect. EPD has said repeatedly that they do not want all "waters of the state" to be protected from pollution and erosion by vegetated buffers. Apparently trying to protect only the economic interests of slipshod developers, EPD is unconcerned about the property rights of Georgians who rely on having enough clean water on their land.

Another EPD action that requires legislative correction deals with the Floridan Aquifer, the groundwater source for water supply for the southern half of the state. For over 15 years there has been a moratorium on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in eleven counties along the coast that rely almost entirely on this water source. ASR is a process in which surface water is injected into groundwater supplies to be withdrawn during times of drought for domestic use. It is sometimes used in water-starved regions, where no alternative is available.

The process is unproven and unneeded in Georgia, and profiteering proposals to experiment with this dangerous technique in the 1990's prompted enactment of the moratorium. Until the 2013 Session the protection was repeatedly renewed by the legislature. Sen. Ross Tolleson, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, unilaterally killed another renewal bill, sponsored by Sen. William Ligon of Brunswick, at the request of the EPD.

Now a Senate Study Committee is exploring the subject of ASR again, and EPD is promoting no protections for the water supply aquifers, despite the repeated warnings of experts of damage to the resource, of high economic cost, and a very clear lack of any need for any such procedures. EPD is interested in using ASR in south Georgia in schemes to send water to Florida during droughts that won't have to come from Metro Atlanta supplies. The needs of south Georgians and their resources are of no consequence to this Chamber of Commerce inspired policy.

A bill to protect this vital groundwater resource will be introduced again in the 2015 Session, and the support of all Georgians is needed to assure its passage.

## Coopers Creek, continued from previous page

- Some of the areas to be cut harbor rare spring ephemerals such as yellow lady slippers, blue cohosh and trilliums. These lush, sensitive sites must be protected.

- Acorns produced by these mature oaks are some of the most important food sources for wildlife.

We can see what is going on in Brawley Forest as a preview of the devastation possible at Coopers Creek. The use of brutish forest practices involving heavy equipment and the construction of major roads pose a serious threat to this precious ecosystem that, in addition to the concerns detailed above, could obliterate a wonderful place to explore Georgia's Appalachian beauty.

The Georgia Chapter signed on to comments submitted by Georgia ForestWatch and Southern Environmental Law Center. We expect the US Forest Service to make a decision sometime between December and January. For more information on this project, please go to [www.georgia.sierraclub.org/cooperscreek](http://www.georgia.sierraclub.org/cooperscreek). Please contribute generously so we have the resources to stop this terrible threat to our forest!



## ***Rail~Volution Conference Offers Lessons for Atlanta on Transit***

**By Brionté McCorkle**

In late September, over 600 transportation professionals, bicycle enthusiasts, and transit advocates gathered in Minneapolis and St. Paul for the 2014 Rail~Volution Conference. It was a proper setting, as the Twin Cities have a rich history of river-based commerce that has evolved into a modern community that not only preserves its natural environment through numerous parks and green spaces, but also boasts multi-cultural attractions and thriving neighborhoods. The cities' transportation network is similarly impressive, seamlessly integrating multiple transportation modes. It was easy for me to take a trip from the airport directly to downtown Minneapolis using the MetroTransit light rail system. Each station had intricate public artwork that reflected its surrounding neighborhood and created a sense of place. After exiting the train, I could either choose to walk on the wide, pedestrian-friendly sidewalks; hop on a connecting MetroTransit bus; or even take advantage of Nice Ride—the cities' Bike Share system—to get to the conference hotel.

The ease of getting from place to place stood out in stark contrast to Metro Atlanta's transportation network, which is comprised of MARTA bus and train service, a small number of bike lanes, and few walkable destinations within the city limits. In Minneapolis and St. Paul, Northstar commuter rail service and a MetroTransit bus rapid transit line serve the outlying communities. In Atlanta, the suburban counties are connected by a slew of bus services including Cobb Community Transit, Gwinnett County Transit and GRTA Xpress bus service. Further, all of the transit services in Minneapolis and St. Paul connect at Union Depot, a multi-modal station in the heart of St. Paul. We took a short ride on the Northstar from Union Depot Station to Target Field Station—a spectacular light rail station just outside of the baseball park where a passenger can catch a free viewing of a Twins game. As I waited to catch the light rail back to my room, I began to wonder if the long-discussed Multi-Modal Passenger Terminal here in Atlanta would ever come to fruition.

People from the public, private, nonprofit and philanthropic sectors populated the five-day conference. Seasoned planning and engineering experts, transit system CEOs, elected officials, and grassroots activists all gathered to discuss the fundamental principles of building livable communities with transit. Each day workshops and panels convened to answer questions such as “How can we promote long-term sustainable economic growth in our neighborhoods through transit and transit-oriented development?” and “How do green design, reduced trips and energy usage, and a smaller carbon footprint



come into play?” It was a thorough discussion about where we have been and where we are going. The timing could not have been more appropriate: On the first day of the conference, over 400,000 people marched through the streets of New York to demand world leaders to act on climate. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx underscored that one way to act on climate is to invest in transit. We know that the transportation sector is the second largest

contributor of greenhouse gasses in the U.S., accounting for nearly 30% of total emissions. The need to reduce the number of cars on the road through investment in transportation alternatives, while building communities that support fewer, shorter trips is becoming ever more urgent.

Changing demographics, and the increasing number of weather-related transportation crises—such as Atlanta's 2014 “Snowpocalypse”—have thrust transit investment into the spotlight. Although the case for it is strong, funding for transit improvement is limited. With the Federal Highway Trust Fund headed for insolvency, state and local governments are re-examining how their transportation dollars are earned and where they are spent. For example, here in Georgia a Joint Legislative Study Committee is conducting meetings around the state to discuss new sources for transportation funding. At these meetings, the Georgia Department of Transportation revealed that it not only relies on federal funds for more than half of its funding, but it also spends the vast majority of its budget on roads. With our growing population, and the anticipated increase in freight traffic due to the Savannah River deepening, it is imperative that the state invest in more transportation options to reduce the burden on roads.

Making this case has largely become a role for advocacy groups like the Sierra Club. The Georgia Chapter's RAIL Committee has teamed up with The Friends of Clayton Transit coalition to successfully secure a ballot referendum to expand MARTA into Clayton County, which is located just south of Atlanta and contains a portion of Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Employing many of the best practices shared at Rail~Volution, we made sure the community was engaged from the start of the process by encouraging them to attend feasibility study meetings and contact their county commissioners. We are continuing to educate the community leading up to the election on November 4. MARTA's expansion will be one small step in correcting the balance of transportation funding in the state. As we move forward, we will continue to advocate for sustainable, walkable community development by emphasizing locally driven solutions with regional impact.



# Georgia Power Tries to Kill Rooftop Solar

By Colleen Kiernan

If you follow solar energy issues in Georgia you know that Georgia has made great strides, going from among the worst to 7th in the country in 2013 (based on the amount of capacity installed, according to the Solar Energy Industry Association). Our position could get even stronger with the 525 megawatts the Public Service Commission approved last summer.

Or maybe not.

Last fall, Sierra Club and other solar advocates successfully stopped Georgia Power from charging a tax for solar users as part of the rate case. To clear up the issue once and for all, the solar industry filed a request in August with the Public Service Commission to have a "Value of Solar" proceeding. This proceeding would help the Commission determine, with the input of Georgia Power, Commission staff, and interested stakeholders, all the costs and benefits of rooftop solar, and ultimately what solar's value should be in the next Integrated Resource Plan, which Georgia Power is preparing now and will file in January 2016. Typically, renewable resources are not properly valued in the traditional planning processes because traditional electric planning doesn't take into account the fact that renewables don't have fuel costs, they don't strain our water resources, and they strengthen the resilience of the grid along with other benefits to ratepayers over the life of a renewable project, like the reduced need to build new power plants and transmission lines. Instead, the upfront costs are usually seen as prohibitive.

To quash this discussion and potentially kill rooftop solar altogether, Georgia Power proposed to change the way it's administering the 525-MW Advanced Solar Initiative program for small and medium scale projects in the middle of the pro-

gram. As approved by the Public Service Commission, projects 1 megawatt and smaller (i.e. those that would go on a typical home or big box store) would be submitted into a lottery. Projects selected would be paid \$0.13 per kilowatt hour.

On August 19, Georgia Power notified the Public Service Commission that they were going to change from the lottery system to a "market-based" system on August 20, with bidding opening on August 26th, and proposing "not to exceed" prices significantly below the \$0.13 per kilowatt hour that the PSC approved last year. While it is important that utilities not overpay for solar, changing the rules in the middle of the game is bad policy and without going through the full evaluation of the all the costs and benefits of rooftop solar, the "not to exceed" prices could very well be too low, which would chill the now thriving solar market in Georgia. Contact the Public Service Commission and tell them you support the Value of Solar docket moving forward and that the "market-based" approach should be used only after the value is set.





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or visit our website: [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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**With our future hanging in the balance**, many Centennial Group members are working to educate the public on environmental issues, influence politicians and laws on all levels, and teaching future generations to respect and enjoy nature. On a local level, we enjoyed a busy summer.

➤ In July we hosted our annual picnic at East Cobb Park in Marietta and had a terrific turnout. Roger Buerki led a group on an educational hike before enjoying a delicious meal. Mark Banks once again grilled veggie and meat burgers. The potluck picnic was completed with watermelon, ice cream, and special homemade dishes. Several of our volunteers were recognized for their dedication and commitment to the Earth and the Sierra Club. We were joined by our new Chapter Volunteer Coordinator, Maria Adams, who spoke briefly on her goals and plans for growing Georgia Sierra Club's local groups, and forming new ones.



➤ Just before the July 22nd primary runoff election, several volunteers helped with phone bank support for a local county commission candidate who won his race.

➤ On July 29th, a hearty contingent of Centennial folks spread our "commuter wings" as we journeyed as a group via CCT and MARTA to join the historic Climate Change Rally and March in Atlanta.

➤ In August, group member Jorg Voss gave a presentation titled, "Sex in the Garden". After reading Angela Overy's book with the same name, Jorg was inspired to develop a science-based presentation about Earth history, life history, and botanical evolution, with emphasis on the profound need of life to survive and procreate. The presentation was engaging and well received. We recommend it to other groups.

➤ In September Ina Allison spoke about the work she does with Cobb County's Adopt-A-Stream program. Centennial Group is particularly proud of its stream testing and cleanup programs which have won state awards.

➤ On September 27th, volunteers participated in a cleanup along the Centennial Group's newly adopted miles. The group has always had the plan of adopting a mile through the Adopt-A-Mile program run by Keep Cobb Beautiful. We decided to adopt and miles along the Lower Roswell Trail in honor of longtime member and activist, Rush Netterville, who passed away in January. Rush and other Sierra Centennial Group members worked long to restore funding for the trail after it was virtually cut from the budget. Adopting and maintaining these two miles in his memory is our way of honoring him. Our commitment of ongoing maintenance is our way of honoring nature.

➤ For our October meeting we hosted an interactive

## Upcoming Meetings & Programs

**November 6** : Kennesaw Mt. Trail Club; Anne Strand: Trail Ambassador program, outreach to local schools, trail maintenance, relationship with the NPS, membership/participation options

**December 4:** Join us for our annual Holiday dinner party and auction at Avery Gallery in Marietta. Dinner will be followed by an auction of member-donated items. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

This is the Centennial Group's biggest fundraiser so we ask members to bring one or more items for the auction. Items in good condition and working order are requested. Arrangements can be made to donate items in advance, if you cannot attend. Also, please bring a side dish to share.

**January 8, 2015:** "Hot Environmental Topics" - Program will include presentations on transit developments in the North Atlanta Metro area (with Brionte McCorkle, Georgia Sierra Club), Camp McDonald Park, Kennesaw (with April Saine, Friends of Camp McDonald), and The River Line Historic Area nonprofit and "Connect the Comet (Trail)" citizens group (with Roberta Cook). There will be time for audience questions and answers, so be prepared for a lively, informative, and timely interactive program.

*Regular meetings are held every 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at Life University, Upper Gymnasium, 1269 Barclay Circle SE., Room 311, Marietta GA. For directions please see website or Facebook page.*

**Please visit our website for details:**

<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/centennial/>

**Check us out on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club>

discussion of sustainability with a panel of representatives from local universities and organizations. Member Gigi Burke served as moderator. This special community event featured a Q & A discussion, an image display- Lexicon of Sustainability, and delicious and sustainable refreshments provided by local organic businesses.

➤ Outdoor activities that kept Centennial members busy: A joint bird hike with local Audubon Society members; a bike outing on the Silver Comet Trail; and several local historic hikes in the CNRA (Chattahoochee National Recreation Area).

**The Centennial Group would like to express our sincere thanks** to Gail Gill for her great job as our treasurer over the past year, and for serving as a new Centennial Excomm member this year. She has done a wonderful job organizing



## Creating Balance



The LaGrange Group has enjoyed a summer full of learning, activism, and outings. We strive to create balance by offering a wide variety of opportunities for a wide level of interests. We kicked off the summer with a day of garden tours, games, swimming and kayaking on beautiful Lake Martin in east Alabama. Lots of learning followed with a tour of 3 organic gardens in Troup County. For those interested in protecting the environment, we offered a potluck dinner meeting featuring Seth Gunning as the speaker with his excellent "Climate Action Now" power point presentation, followed by a road trip to Atlanta to participate in the Climate Action Rally and March centered on the EPA hearing on their proposed carbon rule. Sprinkled amidst these offerings were 3 kayak trips at various levels on the Chattahoochee River.



### **Centennial Group, continued from previous page**

and keeping up with our expenses and donations. She and her husband Pilot are moving to the Athens area, where they are building a new house. Gail has been very active in environmental concerns with our group and with The Climate Reality Project. She will certainly be missed, and we wish her and Pilot all the best in this new chapter of their lives. We look forward to hearing about her efforts to become involved with other projects and other Sierrans in the Athens area.

With this door closing we welcome Barbara Owens as our new treasurer. We also welcome Steven Bell to the Ex-comm, appointed to complete the remaining year of Gail's term.

We would also like to welcome Linda Bell as our Political committee chair.

They are great additions to our leadership team.



*L to R: Sheri D. Workman, Steve Bell, Lynn Walston, Gail Gill, Todd Daniel, Bettye Harris, Barbara Owens*

## **Upcoming Meetings and Outings**

**October 21st, 6:30-8pm:** Our October Meeting will be held in the Dickson Assembly Room at LaGrange College. To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act, we will air a 45 minute video produced by the Smithsonian Channel which features aerial photography of some of our country's most beautiful wilderness areas. Action cards will be available to sign for expansion of wilderness areas in Georgia. Contact Ellen Parkhurst ([ellen\\_parkhurst@yahoo.com](mailto:ellen_parkhurst@yahoo.com)) for directions.

**November 1st, 9am - 5pm:** A 4 ½ mile intermediate level hike in the Cheaha Wilderness in east central Alabama will be led in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Participants will need to bring water and picnic lunch to enjoy along this section of the Pinhoti Trail. Hernandez Peak and McDill Point (both above 2000 ft) will be highlights of our hike. If time permits, we may hike to 2 other viewpoints (easy ¼ mile long walks) within the state park. At 2405 ft., Mt. Cheaha is the highest point in Alabama. Contact Laura Breyfogle [breyfogle@charter.net](mailto:breyfogle@charter.net) to register. There is a 15 person limit. Participants may opt to either meet at the trailhead or carpool from LaGrange. Distance from LaGrange is 70 miles.

**November 18th, 6:30-8pm:** Our November meeting will be held in the parish hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church on 207 N. Greenwood St. in LaGrange. Henry Jacobs, Regional Outreach Coordinator for Chattahoochee River Keeper, will speak on water quality of the Chattahoochee River basin in our surrounding area and how we can help in its monitoring.

## Upcoming Meetings & Programs

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

### **October 14 Meeting:** *Georgia's Coast*

Megan Desrosiers, Executive Director of 100 Miles will tell us how fragile our coast is.

### **November 11 Meeting:** *Pollinators*

Forest Service biologist Dennis Krusac will describe the plight of the bees and other pollinators.

### **December 9 Meeting and Potluck:** *Hiking Atlanta's Hidden Forests*

Join Jonah McDonald for his talk about hiking in the Metro Atlanta forests. Please bring a food item to share with others.

## Adopt-A-Stream Program events

- **Chemical monitoring** in October and November will probably be on the Saturday after the regular Tuesday meetings. Please call Larry (see below).
- **Saturday, December 13** (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, updates, and new events please see <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>**

## Leap-Sprogging Future Environmental Activists



**By Ted Jackson, Metro Atlanta Group**

"Would your group be interested in sponsoring two Sprogers' tuition?" read a message the Metro Atlanta Group received early this summer. "What's a SPROG?" we on the ExCom were wondering.

Last year a member of the Sierra Student Coalition, Emma French (a Georgia Tech grad student), went to the SPROG activist training in the Southeast and wanted to pay it forward for other Georgia students to help become the future of environmental activism. The next week-long SPROG training session was in July in Brandon, Mississippi.

For over 20 years, the Sierra Student Coalition has been helping high school and college aged youth turn passion into action that wins real results through trainings designed and delivered by other young people! SPROG is the Sierra Student Coalition's week-long Summer Grassroots Leadership Training Program, run by and for young people (roughly ages 14-28). SPROG aims to provide a comprehensive set of skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to succeed as a leader of a grassroots campaign.

It turned out that in 2014 four Sprogers from Georgia went to training:

**Paul Murray** went to high school in Lambert, Montana and came to the South to attend Georgia College and State University (in Milledgeville), where he is currently studying Environmental Science.

**Cayla Sheenan** went to high school at the Savannah Arts Academy and is now studying Environmental Science at Georgia College and State University (GCSU). Cayla's interest in the environmental issues stemmed from the classes she was taking for her major and an environmental club she joined on cam-



## Metro Atlanta Group

### *SPROG, continued from previous page*

pus. In her free time, Cayla likes hiking and drawing. Cayla said, "SPROG has given me the motivation and courage to get more involved in my community to make a difference." "Prior to SPROG," Cayla continued, "I believed I would be learning about how to organize goals and put them into action. After SPROG I understand that the movement I want to be a part of is much bigger than just environmentalism. I want to be a part of the movement that demands equality for all people and believes in sustainable practices for developing energy as well as growing food." Cayla will be putting SPROG into practice by working toward establishing a garden at GCSU.

**Matthew Kennedy** graduated from Woodward Academy this May and will be heading to Bar Harbor, Maine in the fall to start school at the College of the Atlantic. Matthew's concern for the environment sprouted when he and his sixth grade class took a trip to Jekyll Island and he learned about the local struggle going on there to prevent harmful development. Matthew reflected upon his training: "The trainings at Sprog were refreshingly interactive and discussion-based. The trainers always welcomed us to contribute—to offer insight, to share past experiences, to ask questions or request clarification. Rarely did it feel like I was sitting through a lecture, but rather that I was taking part in a relaxed but lively conversation where all of us could learn from, and teach, one another." He continued, "each lesson I learned at SPROG is one I can see myself incorporating into my life as I move forward. I acquired many of the skills I'll need to pursue a leadership role in environmental advocacy: the essentials of planning a campaign, the technique to crafting a 'public narrative,' the importance of clear communication, and strategies for working with the media and with decision makers."

**Emily Cuéllar Davis** after leaving high school in Kenesaw, Georgia, started at GCSU majoring in mass communications and minoring in business administration and theater. In her free time Emily loves to play guitar and violin. Emily is also into photography and film-making. Reflecting afterwards, Emily said "I am starting an organization on my college campus to fight social injustices that affect our community, and with my SPROG training I feel more confident that I can set realistic goals and achieve them. I also feel that I learned a lot from the trainers on how to cultivate an inclusive environment for the club so that members can feel that their voices are heard and respected." SPROG can even change your life: "I was never particularly environmentally conscious other than recycling, but attending SPROG really changed my perspective and I plan to use what I learned to be more environmentally responsible. I'm even on my way to being vegetarian!"

These four young Sprogers have gotten their feet wet, minds engaged and hearts set to become the future of environmental activists. Perhaps the ExCom learned that SPROG isn't a who or a what, but a why!

## Savannah River Group

**This has been a very busy fall for everyone**, including those of us who call Augusta home. We are especially proud of Greg & Ann Sutherland for helping organize Georgia's participation in the Climate March in New York. It was such a thrill to see all the participants from all over the USA and to know we were represented in this watershed event.

We also had reason to smile when we had a record turnout for our September program which featured Dr. Lehr Brisbin, Savannah River Ecology Lab, and his delightful program on the native Carolina Dog and its genetic history (see photo). There are some dog owners in our area who have adopted these unique animals. In October we enjoyed a presentation on outdoor gear by a representative from the new Cabela's store which opened recently in Augusta. No excuses now for not having the equipment we need for hikes, camping, and water sports.

Richard McCrary continues to lead our Adopt-A-Highway team and Sam Booher led his usual team of canoers participating in trash pick-up as part of the annual October Rivers Alive waterways clean-up. And yes, we still know how to have fun whether it is joining Tim Nelken or Larry Komp in bicycling the Canal Towpath and the Phinizy Swamp trails. And how is this for something different: learn how to avoid getting lost hiking through a five acre Corn Maze (not maize!) A-maizing, no doubt.



# Chapter Contacts

## Executive Committee

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

**Vice Chair - Administration:** Midge Sweet,  
404-667-4476, sweetmidge@gmail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

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

Sara Black, 205-612-3204  
saratoblack@gmail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Sam Booher, 706-863-2324,  
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*Savannah River Group Delegate*

Laura Breyfogle, 706-845-7235,  
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*LaGrange Group Delegate*

Todd Daniel, 678-567-2052,  
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*At-Large Elected Member*

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*Metro Atlanta Group Delegate*

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*Greater Gwinnett Group Delegate*

Bettye Harris, 770-578-1186,  
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*Centennial Group Delegate*

Norman Slawsky, 404-664-6259  
nslawsky@gmail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

## Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, November 15th at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221.

## Officers & Chairs

**Conservation Chair:** Alan Toney,  
mudflat@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

**Treasurer:** Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

**Finance Chair:** Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

**Fundraising Chair:** *vacant*  
*Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Office. Contact the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221 for more information.*

**Human Resources Chair:** Norman Slawsky,  
nslawsky@gmail.com

**Legislative Chair:** Mark Woodall,  
woodallmark8@gmail.com

**Litigation Chair:** Norman Slawsky,  
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**Membership Chair:** Ross Cheairs,  
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**Newsletter Editor:** David Emory,  
gasieran@gmail.com

**Outings Chair:** Sammy Padgett,  
sammypadgett@comcast.net

**Political Chair:** Eddie Ehlert,  
edehlert@bellsouth.net

**Webmaster:** Charlotte Gardner,  
ga\_sierra\_webmaster@yahoo.com

## Issue Campaigns and Contacts

**Clean Air:** Dale Kemmerick,  
dalekemm@comcast.net

**Coastal Issues:** Steve Willis,  
snwillis@yahoo.com

• **Coastal Marsh:** Karen Grainey,  
karengrainey@bellsouth.net

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

• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,  
scollier@mindspring.com

• **Savannah Port:** Steve Willis,  
snwillis@yahoo.com

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

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

**Population:** Todd Daniel,  
todddan@mac.com

**Recycling:** Lori Blank, lblank@hotmail.com

**Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL):**  
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  
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com  
*Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office*

• **Beyond Coal:** Seth Gunning,  
seth.gunning@sierraclub.org

• **Natural Gas:** *vacant*

• **Nuclear:** Glenn Carroll, atom.girl@nonukesyall.org

• **Solar:** Thomas Jackson, tj31975@gmail.com

• **Wind:** Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net

## Water Sentinels / Adopt-a-Stream:

Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

## Wildlands and Wildlife:

Mike Murdock, murdock1@mindspring.com  
*Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7:00 p.m., chapter office.*  
*Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.*

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

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

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

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

## Georgia Chapter Staff

### Chapter Director:

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### Chapter Conservation Coordinator:

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brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

### Chapter Volunteer Coordinator:

Maria Adams, 404-607-1262 x.221  
maria.adams@sierraclub.org

## National Staff

### Beyond Coal Organizer:

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

## Sierra Club National Programs

### Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Contact Terri Lyde (lydeterri@bellsouth.net) for more information.

### Sierra Student Coalition

Contact Tyler Faby (tfaby@uga.com) 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 Lynn Walston, [lynnwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnwalston22@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 Blich 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*

**Co-Chair:** Gordon Draves, (404) 766-3456  
[nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com](mailto:nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Konrad Hayashi, [rainingatl@gmail.com](mailto:rainingatl@gmail.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, [callisonjim@bellsouth.net](mailto:callisonjim@bellsouth.net)

### 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 C  
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 C.

## 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](mailto: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-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

Subscribe to the Smart Energy Solutions listserve at [gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com](mailto:gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com)

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at: [http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP\\_GA\\_Signup](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 & Group Elections

## CHAPTER & GROUP ELECTIONS

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## Georgia Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

### Jennifer Kaduck

*Location: Stone Mountain  
Sierra Club Member Since  
1989*



As a Sierra Club member for over twenty years, I am a firm believer in the club's mission and deeply admire the club's unwavering commitment to protect the planet. As Chief of the Land Protection and Hazardous Waste Branches at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, I worked for thirty-two years to find, investigate and clean up Georgia's hazardous waste sites, landfills, dumps, underground tanks, toxic spills, and surface mines. I also saw to it that proper regulatory controls were put into place so fewer problem sites were created in the future. In that job I learned what a crucial role the Sierra Club plays in influencing positive environmental policies.

After retiring in 2010, I deepened my understanding of climate change and mitigation strategies because I believe it is the most urgent and challenging problem facing the world. As a volunteer, I advise the Sierra Club on legislative and policy issues on which I have expertise, and participate when possible on the Smart Energy Solutions work group and Beyond Coal Campaign. In 2011 the Georgia Chapter honored me with a Conservation Leadership Award for policy development work relating to the use of biomass as fuel.

In my current role as Senior Policy Advisor at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, I advise the Office of the Presi-

dent and the Sustainability Director on climate change and mitigation strategy and am helping the college to achieve its goal of carbon neutrality by 2037. I lead the college's efforts to produce clean energy including the installation of six new solar photovoltaic arrays generating 300,000 KWh per year of carbon-free electricity and the installation of a large geothermal energy system for a LEED Gold historic building renovation. The geothermal system uses 40% less energy and 100% less water than traditional energy systems. This summer I testified on behalf of the College in support of the proposed USEPA rule to limit carbon emissions from existing power plants.

My knowledge, experience, managerial skills, and commitment will be useful to the Sierra Club and I ask for your vote as a new member of the Executive Committee.

### Thomas Neff

*Location: Marietta  
Sierra Club Member Since  
1985*



I am pleased to be a candidate for the Georgia chapter excom and I ask for your vote. I have been a member for nearly 30 years and previously served on the chapter excom from 2006-2009. For the past several years I have served as both the chapter and Atlanta ICO treasurers. I recently served 3 years on the national nominating committee (which recruits and vets candidates for the national board) and continue to serve on the national finance committee as the assistant treasurer. The Georgia chapter has played a leadership role in fighting big coal and promoting sustainable energy sources as well as transportation alternatives such as our recent success in getting MARTA funding on the Clayton County ballot. We have long been involved in protecting Georgia's waters and with the 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act we are raising awareness of the need to protect Georgia's forestlands. It would be fun and challenging to be a bigger part of all that. The chapter has both the financial and people resources to continue to play a leading role in protecting Georgia's resources along with fighting the great threat of global warming. I have been involved in environmental advocacy for 30 years and think I have the leadership and financial skills to help provide oversight for our efforts. I would be honored to serve.



## Chapter & Group Elections

### Diane Shearer

*Location: Tucker  
Sierra Club Member Since  
2005*

Environmental issues have long been one of my concerns, so when I retired from teaching in 2005, I decided to become more active in the Sierra Club. After attending the club's fall retreat in 2009, I chose to become a member of the Smart Energy Committee, where I continue to work with the committee as a whole and serve on the Energy Efficiency sub-committee. I am especially interested in the issues surrounding electric power generation and water and in efforts to help push Georgia toward greater reliance on renewables.

I have written articles for Georgia Sierran, volunteered at the Sierra office, participated in outings both locally and nationally, and spoken to new volunteers at Sierra 101. In February 2013 I attended the march against the Keystone pipe-



line in Washington D.C., and in July 2014 I assisted with preparations and activities for the Atlanta climate march and rally in conjunction with the EPA carbon hearings.

Since 2007 I have served on the board of directors for The Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island and currently serve as chairperson. In 2014 I also began serving on the board of The Center for a Sustainable Coast. Because I grew up in south Georgia, coastal and river issues have always been a concern of mine. From working with IPJI and Sierra, I have learned much about the value of the coordination of efforts to create successful outcomes, especially in terms of legislation.

### Jeff Schoenberg

*Location: Dunwoody  
Sierra Club Member Since  
2013*

For a school project in about 1975 I designed a "city of the future." It had a minimal street grid, transit everywhere and lots of green space downtown. Big dreams that won't die! In the early 90's, I left a prestigious litigation practice to try my hand at building in-town housing, a

sustainability asset that Atlanta sorely lacked. Not long after, I joined the staff of U.S. Senator Max Cleland. While there I was responsible for transit, natural resource management and environmental policy issues, particularly for the Atlanta region. I first interacted with the Sierra Club in 1998 as a target of their lobbying. In subsequent years, I have worked behind the scenes with candidates and elected officials on both politics and policy. I served on and chaired the board of Georgia Conservation Voters. I formally joined the Sierra Club in 2013 and was recently appointed to serve on the state Political Committee.

I believe environmentalism can be a primary driver of change in our politics and our world. There is nothing partisan about clean air and water. Working for safe, healthy communities can unite us. Moreover, Americans are recognizing that mounting environmental pressures are creating issues of national security. The Sierra Club can be effective in coalescing public opinion around this challenge, and can pave the way for fundamental shifts in government policies at both the state and federal level.

I would be honored to serve on the ExCom of the Georgia Sierra Club and would appreciate your support.



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## Chapter & Group Elections

### Metro Atlanta Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Konrad Hayashi

---

My wife Jannah and I have been in the Sierra Club 6 yrs, and are regulars at Metro Atlanta meetings. I've long appreciated hiking and the scenic outdoors, and we especially enjoyed hiking and the ocean when we lived in Hawaii, before coming to Georgia. I first really learned to enjoy the outdoors through Boy Scouts, later becoming an Assistant Scout Master in San Diego, and enjoyed helping the troops with everything from medical exams to setting up camp. Later, while a Navy tropical medicine physician in Peru, I was fortunate to hike part of the Inca Trail. Since coming to Georgia, we have been members of WAND, which also has a strong environmental protection component. I support requiring industry to pay their full share of production costs, to include impacts on public health and the environment (e.g. mining, particulates, tailings, etc.) and oppose legislation forcing us to provide huge welfare payments each month to a power company for nuclear reactor construction without taxpayer approval. Have enjoyed serving on Ex-Com for Metro Atlanta Group for past 2 years, and helping with planning and facilitating our meetings. We appreciate the important role Sierra Club plays as environmental advocate here in Georgia, where our collective voices are sorely needed. We also appreciate meeting and working with so many conscientious environmentalists and naturalists thru their talks at our meetings, and with the Georgia Chapter. I will have more health and environmental tales to tell when I return from my work assignment in Liberia, to help with the Ebola epidemic response.

### Centennial Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Linda Bell

---

Ironically, my first introduction to the Sierra Club involved Centennial activist, Roger Buerki! My husband, Steven, and I were graduate students in Athens around 1975 when we became involved with the Sierra Club and we both distinctly remember Roger speaking to our group on more than one occasion.

We left Athens for Rome, GA when Steven took a job with Berry College, where we remained for 35 + years. All those years, we remained Sierra Club members, though Rome never had a Sierra Club group. We were involved

with the Coosa River Basin Initiative (started by Joe Cook).

The years in Rome were spent mainly raising our four children, who all came to call Steven and me hippies because of our environmental ways! When our youngest went to Kindergarten, I became involved in another volunteer organization, La Leche League, and learned more than I even wanted to about keeping a volunteer group afloat! When our youngest was 5, I returned to my career as a School Psychologist, where I remained for the next 20 years.

We retired last year and moved to Cobb County, mainly to be close to our daughter and her family. I have always held in the back of my head that, when I retired and had more time, I wanted to become more engaged with issues that have always been important to me. This includes environmentalism and so I welcome the possibility of becoming more involved as an executive committee member.

#### Angelica (Angie) Netterville

---

I am Angelica Netterville, [ecoangie@bellsouth.net](mailto:ecoangie@bellsouth.net), and would very much like to continue my services on the Centennial Sierra Club Executive Committee. I am currently the vice chair. I believe our Centennial Group is a very dynamic, dedicated force for improving local and state environmental issues and that we work very well as a team.

I am a Spanish teacher at Inman Middle Public School in the Atlanta Public School System. I also have a science and ecological college background from Colombia. I really enjoy putting my experience into practice by being part of the Sierra Club. I am very concerned about how our population of more than 7 billion human beings is having a negative impact on our planet. Like many people, I recycle constantly; I volunteer to participate in river clean ups; and I support actions that will make our planet a better place. I take my own bags when grocery shopping and save energy in any way possible. I look forward to continuing to support my community through my volunteer work with the Sierra Club Centennial Group.

#### Russell Puryear

---

I'm the scion of two old Virginia families, raised in heaping helpings of the old south and moved north to escape. I've been a carpenter, clerk, cabinetmaker, Coast Guardsman, architect, commercial pilot, college instructor, and consultant. I wonder why I couldn't make architect start with a "c". Next year I plan to decide what I want to do when I grow up.

I've been in the Sierra Club since 2004. This year I've become active. The executive committee of the Centennial Group is a path to greater activity.



## Chapter & Group Elections

### Sheri Workman

---

I joined the Sierra Club in 1997 because I have always loved nature, and have always tried to make a difference by being a good steward of the Earth. As a strong advocate for recycling, I served as the Centennial Group's recycling coordinator for several years. During that time, the Group was awarded a grant to educate the public on recycling. I served on the board of Keep Cherokee Beautiful for 3 years and was co-founder of the Earth Day Festival in Cherokee County, which ran for 3 years. I have enjoyed working on environmental issues with fellow Sierrans. After a short hiatus, I returned to the group in 2009 and was happy to see several familiar faces. Currently, I am an appointed member of the excom and serve as newsletter editor and communications chair, as well as recycling coordinator again. I enjoy getting involved with the Centennial Group's outings and conservation programs and I enjoy helping out administratively as well. It would be an honor to continue serving on the excom. I thank you for your consideration.

## LaGrange Group Executive Committee Candidates

### Kathryn Adams

---

I have lived in LaGrange 17 years and worked at LaGrange Memorial Library 15 years. As library manager, I have opportunities to develop programs that promote awareness of a clean environment and to educate our community on how to do it. From our Earth Day programs, to the county-wide Recycled Art Contest, to the benefits of organic farming co-ops, I am committed to building a consciousness and appreciation for our earth. As a member of Keep Troup Beautiful board, I participate in clean ups, educational programs and currently a recycling program for our library. Being a member of the Sierra Club for almost 2 years has helped educate me with stimulating programs and opportunities to actually do fun stuff. Kayaking was a life-time bucket list item and the Sierra club made it a reality. My passion for protecting the environment is deeply ingrained since childhood. In fact I think the only true inheritance that we can offer our children is an appreciation and a working commitment to maintain its' beauty. So thanks for the opportunity to say a few words on my favorite subject.

### Dana Austin

---

It's time to invest more of my energies where my heart is! I bring to the table so to speak a collection of interests and talents evolving from my formative years in San Francisco, its environs, and the Sierras, through my college years in Environmental Studies and Geography, and into my post college years as an elementary and middle school science teacher. My lifelong love of the restorative and invigorating gift that nature can be pulses through me and aches to reach out to others so they too can "Explore, Enjoy, and Protect our (precious) Planet" for themselves and the generations yet to come!

### Sim Blitch

---

I have been a Sierra Club member for 2 1/2 years, serving on the LaGrange executive committee for the past 2 years as conservation chair. My father always told me it was important that we leave the earth better than we found it and I strive to do that. In my retirement, I became an organic gardener, selling organic fruits and vegetables weekly in LaGrange. I have hired a number of kids, teens and young adults to assist in this gardening endeavor, thereby learning a bit about organic gardening themselves. My partner and I live in a small historic church that was converted into our home, which we share for fall parties with our local Sierra Club group.

### Laura Breyfogle

---

I have served on the executive committee of the Sierra Club Group of LaGrange for 4 years with the following responsibilities: recycling committee chair, treasurer, outings leader and chair. In addition, for the past 2 years I have served as our local representative to the Georgia Chapter executive committee and found the networking and outreach opportunities on a state level very rewarding. I have a passion for both exploring and protecting the planet and love spending time with others who share this passion!

### Andrea Richard

---

I have been a member of our local LaGrange Sierra Club Group for two years and have been searching for a way to connect my fellow LaGrange College students to their local Sierra Club. I am so fortunate to have this opportunity to be on the Executive Committee. I look forward to supporting and promoting the meetings, events, and overall message of our local Sierra Club.

## Chapter & Group Elections

### Greater Gwinnett Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Susan Gamble:

I believe that climate change and pollution are the most important issues facing humans and wildlife. I am interested in helping bring about a shift in Georgia from the outdated and dirty fossil and nuclear power sources to clean, renewable solar, wind and possibly tidal energy generation. I have a strong interest in attracting our area's like minded people together so that we can be a positive force for healing our environment.

#### Michael Hallen

I have been an active member of the Sierra Club for 20 plus years. I have been the Lead Monitor for the Gwinnett Group Sierra Club Adopt A Stream at the Suwanee Creek site. I would like to help the Gwinnett Group by being on the ExCom to ensure our streams are clean and to bring more "nature" programs to our meetings.

#### Art Sheldon

I have enjoyed serving on the Greater Gwinnett Group ExCom for these last few years and look forward to continuing to serve another term to continue our work in the growing of environmental awareness here in Gwinnett. As a Sierra Club member since 1992 and active at the state level here in Georgia since 2004 I bring a strong interest in environmental issues that started with my work towards and receiving a degree in Environmental Studies many years ago. I furthered that with a Masters Degree in City Planning from Georgia Tech where I did a thesis on revitalization of historic buildings and districts in Savannah before sustainability was a commonly used expression. Since then I have served on boards of various groups seeking to protect us from over building without a plan. This resulted in appointments to the 1997 Gwinnett SPLOST Citizens Project Selection Committee and the inaugural Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board where I served two 4 year terms and was elected Vice-Chairman and Chairman for two year terms. My key issues now are to push alternative forms of transportation to automobile projects such as Bus Rapid Transit and light rail here in Gwinnett as well as continuing to work at the state level on the R.A.I.L. committee supporting MARTA and light rail in the belt line.

## 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 **three** (3) 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 La-Grange 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 13, 2014. Mail to:

Georgia Sierra Club Elections, 743-C 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 13, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-C 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 13, 2014.

## Georgia Chapter

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 18-19

### How many?

Vote for up to  
THREE candidates

3

	A	B
Jennifer Kaduck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Thomas Neff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diane Shearer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Schoenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Centennial Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 20-21

### How many?

Vote for up to TWO  
candidates

2

	A	B
Linda Bell	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Angelica Neterville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Russell Puryear	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sheri Workman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Greater Gwinnett Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 22

### How many?

Vote for up to TWO  
candidates

2

	A	B
Susan Gamble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Hallen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art Sheldon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## LaGrange Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 21

### How many?

Vote for up to TWO  
candidates

2

	A	B
Kathryn Adams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dana Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sim Blitch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Breyfogle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrea Richard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Metro Atlanta Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 20

### How many?

Vote for up to ONE  
candidate

1

	A	B
Konrad Hayashi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Mail ballots to:** Georgia Sierra Club Elections  
743 East College Ave., Ste. C  
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 13, 2014.

**Notice:** Ballots will be verified and counted on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapter office.



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## Outings & Events

**Saturday - Sunday, October 25th - 26th**

### ***AT: Hightower Gap to Three Forks***

**Leader:** Moshe Jacobson (770-366-2923, jehsom@gmail.com) and Dena Maguire Young (dmaguire5@yahoo.com)

**Rated:** Moderate

**Registration:** Required before October 18, 12:00 AM

**Description:** This one-night backpacking trip is perfect for those less experienced in backpacking. We will hike just under four miles of moderate terrain (1500' gain/loss round trip) from Hightower Gap to a beautiful camping area on the Three Forks creek. Along the way will see the historic Hickory Flats cemetery and have an opportunity to summit Hawk Mountain for those who want the extra challenge. We'll be carpooling from Atlanta, though you may also meet us in Dahlonega, where we'll be having lunch before we head to the trail. Specific meeting places & times will be given after you sign up. Also, we are happy to help you figure out what gear you'll need. Just ask!

**Saturday, October 25th**

### ***Blood Mountain from Lake Winfield Scott***

**Time:** 8:00 AM (tentative)

**Leader:** Lee Graham (678-384-0171, leegrah3@gmail.com)

**Rated:** Moderate

**Registration:** Required before October 23 12:00 PM

**Description:** This is a moderate hike and an excellent introduction to the Appalachian Trail. From Lake Winfield Scott, we will take the Jarrard Gap trail at a moderate pace, with rest stops and intersect with the Appalachian

Trail, then take the A.T. up to Blood Mtn to the historic CCC shelter where we'll have lunch. Blood Mtn has excellent views in multiple directions. We will then return to Lake Winfield Scott via the Slaughter Creek Trail. This Blood Mountain Wilderness hike is a moderate loop plus a steep 0.7 mile climb up Blood Mountain. At 4458 feet, Blood Mountain is the highest peak on the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. Please register directly with Lee Graham: leegrah3@gmail or c: 404-202-9065.

While this is a moderate hike, people should be exercising regularly and prepared for the 2 hour uphill hike up to Blood Mtn. After lunch, approximately 2 hours hiking back to Lake Winfield Scott. People can carpool from the Georgia 400 Mansell Park/Ride lot. Expected return time to Mansell Park/Ride lot is approximately 5:00pm.

## 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 15th** from 10:00 to 11:30 AM 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 743C 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.