

GEORGIA



SIERRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER • OCT / NOV / DEC 2019



ATLANTA CLIMATE STRIKE • PAGE 11

**PLUS • GEORGIA CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS • 2020 GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW
FIGHTING RATE HIKES PROPOSED BY GEORGIA POWER • LOCAL GROUP REPORTS • AND MORE**

FROM THE INTERIM CHAPTER DIRECTOR

Little did I know that when my deep desire for protecting public lands led me to apply for a job at Sierra Club, I would find myself at an organization working just as hard to center equity and justice in their work as they were fighting to combat climate change. While human rights and racial equity had always been something very personal and important to me, I had yet to fully understand the inseparable connection between equity and environmentalism.

When I started working at the Georgia Chapter in 2016, national Sierra Club had already adopted a multi-year Diversity Equity Inclusion plan and launched Dismantling Racism Training. Here at the Georgia Chapter, former Deputy Director Brionté McCorkle was serving on the national Equity Core Support Team and leading chapter staff and volunteers to bring this work home to Georgia. I soon came to understand that in order to protect our planet and fight climate change, we cannot simply enlist all humanity to do so, we must go further and fight for justice for all humanity if we are to succeed. I'm grateful for the leadership both within and outside of Sierra Club that I've learned from, and I'm excited to bring training opportunities to the chapter and help carry on this work.

This September, we brought Marisol Jiménez from Tepeyac Consulting to facilitate a day-long Racial Equity Training workshop for Executive



Jessica Morehead

Interim Chapter Director

Committee members, volunteer leaders, and staff. I am inspired by this group and the many other Sierra Club members and volunteers ready and willing to stand with marginalized communities in the fight for justice, inspired by those of you working to transform our organization into one that is equitable and just. As we watch the climate crisis unfold and aim to mitigate the consequences, we must stand in solidarity with all humanity. This is how we will succeed!

For more information about Sierra Club's commitment to equity, inclusion, and justice, visit sierraclub.org/equity.

If you'd like to serve on our volunteer Equity Committee, please send me an email at jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Morehead'.

Jessica Morehead

INTERIM CHAPTER DIRECTOR

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Visit the Georgia Chapter Office

Our office is a two-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 E. College Avenue side. Once outside, proceed down the temporary stairway and turn left toward Sams Street. Cross over Sams Street and the office is behind the bakery. Look for the playground behind the building. Enter the fenced gate. The office is the second door from Sams Street on the right.

On the Cover

Photo: Activists take part in the Sept. 20 Climate Strike in Atlanta.
Credit: Ricky Leroux

CHAPTER NEWS

WELCOME JILLIAN AND ELIZA

Jillian Eller has joined the chapter as our newest Conservation Fellow. Jillian grew up in central Pennsylvania and is a recent transplant to the state of Georgia. She graduated in 2018 from Temple University with a B.A. in Environmental Studies, concentrating on the nexus of environmental concerns in urban settings. In previous years, she researched urban green spaces and the implications of development.



As a Conservation Fellow at the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter, Jillian works with volunteers, national staff, and chapter staff on the Ready for 100 Campaign. Her passion lies in community with a focus on equity and justice. Outside of the office, Jillian prefers spending her time with friends on hikes or exploring her new surroundings.

Additionally, welcome back to Eliza Stevenson, who has returned as our new chapter assistant. Eliza previously worked as our Quaker Volunteer Service Fellow working on student outreach and the Ready for 100 Campaign.



Eliza was born and raised in the mountains of North Carolina. She graduated from Guilford College with degrees in Environmental Studies and Psychology and moved to Atlanta to work with the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter in August 2018. Eliza has attended The Outdoor Academy in Pisgah National Forest, the International Sustainable Development Studies Institute in Thailand, served as a Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow, and has experience working at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Eliza aspires to make the benefits of spending time outside more accessible to all. We're so happy to have Eliza back to help out temporarily around the chapter.

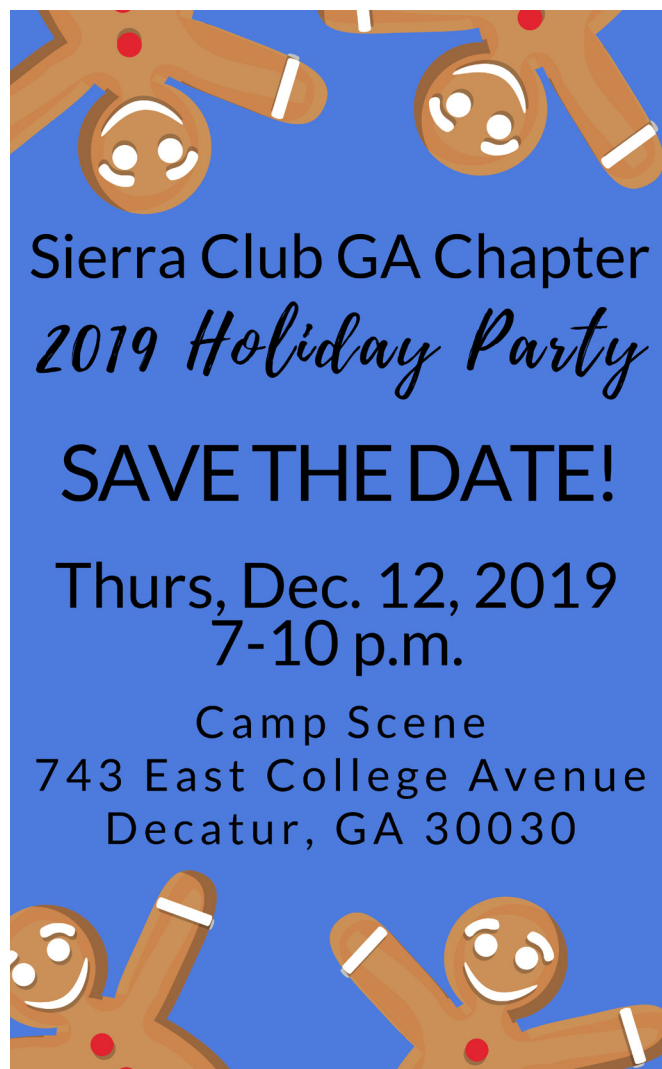
NOW HIRING: CHAPTER CONSERVATION ORGANIZER

Sierra Club Georgia Chapter is seeking a full-time Conservation Organizer to expand and win advocacy campaigns in the Georgia Chapter's target conservation areas: climate change, energy

policy, transportation policy, and land policy. The Conservation Organizer will help to build grassroots power with diverse local leaders by providing strategic guidance, training, and logistical support to our diverse and growing volunteer network working on key environmental issues. All candidates should demonstrate a commitment to equity, justice, and inclusion. Visit sierraclub.org/georgia/careers to learn more and apply.

FALL GATHERING UPDATE

The Sierra Club Georgia Chapter's Fall Gathering has been postponed to Fall 2020. We will announce a new date and other details early next year. Stay tuned to our social media accounts and sign up for our email newsletters for the latest info.



Sierra Club GA Chapter
2019 Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE!

Thurs, Dec. 12, 2019
7-10 p.m.

Camp Scene
743 East College Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

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SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW 2020

BY MARK WOODALL

The Georgia Legislature returns in January for the second and final year of the 2019-20 session. Many 2019 bills, both good and bad, are still under consideration. Here are some of the bills the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter is watching. Contact info for your state senator and state representative can be found at legis.ga.gov. The schedule of committee meetings and full texts of bills are all posted there as well. The Georgia Water Coalition website at gawater.org covers the water related legislation, and protectgeorgia.org is a good place to get the current alerts. It's not too early to let your legislators know what you think. Note: The names given to the bills here are not their "official" names, so best to refer to them by number and subject when contacting your lawmakers.

Bills marked with asterisks (**) are priority bills for the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter in 2020.

ROLLBACKS OF CURRENT PROTECTIONS

*Right to Harm***

HB 545 by Rep. Tom McCall, R-Elberton

This attack on clean air, clean water, and property rights is a project of the Georgia Farm Bureau and the Georgia Poultry Federation with support from Agriculture Commissioner Gary Black. HB 545 was subjected to strenuous contention in the House even though it was a sneak attack introduced at the last minute. What passed the

House remains a legal nightmare for rural residents.

Georgia has had a fine "Right to Farm Act" in force since the 1980s. The law says that a farmer can continue farming when new neighbors arrive at his location if he has been operating there for a year before their arrival. The law has protected farm operations from complaints from new neighbors who arrives via urban sprawl or other examples of developer greed.

HB 545 repeals that law and replaces it with legislation similar to what has passed in North Carolina and took away the rights of residents living near the 10 million hogs now in eastern North Carolina. The stench and clouds of flies that come with the massive open air pits of hog manure led North Carolina courts to award hundreds of millions of dollars to neighbors of mega hog factories controlled by the Chinese pork giant Smithfield. Smithfield's millions of hogs and their odors and waste have ruined many neighborhoods that had existed before corporate hog operations arrived. The ruined landowners there were made whole by the court. As a result of this, it appears that we have to get rid of a different law in GA? It must be replaced with a law that would let Smithfield or some similar gang of corporate thugs move into Georgia, set up in a rural community and ruin it for profit? There is no doubt that HB 545 would accomplish that evil goal.

HB 545 bill failed to move out of Senate Rules in 2019. It is now back in the Senate Agriculture Committee, where it should remain until the end of the 2020 Session. This dangerous attack on rural property rights in behalf of multinational monopolies must be stopped.

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Preemption of local control over housing design
HB 302/SB 172 by Rep. Vance Smith, R-Pine Mountain/Sen. John Wilkinson, R-Toccoa

These bills are a preemption of all local design standards for single-family and duplex residences. It would make legal the construction of substandard housing stock, ostensibly for the use of migrant and immigrant labor who would live in “instant slums.” These bills are being pushed by the Homebuilders Association and the Realtors.

Cities and counties vigorously opposed these bills. They were assigned to their respective Agriculture Committees, not committees dealing with local government or regulation. The aim here is to house low-paid workers in dwellings of as low a quality as can be thrown up. Legislation like this is shameful and a sorry commentary on our state and the values of its people. There now a House Study Committee on the euphemism “Workforce Housing.”

Attack on MARTA expansion in Gwinnett
SB 200 by Sen. Steve Gooch, R-Dahlonega

This bill would require the Georgia Department of Transportation to develop rules and regulations to allow disappointed bidders to contest bids on DOT contracts that are rejected by the agency. This project appears to be coming from disgruntled paving contractors who think they may be able to argue their way into work their bids didn’t qualify them to perform.

The measure was amended in the House Rules Committee by Gwinnett Republicans following the defeat of the MARTA resolution in a special election in Gwinnett in March. The timing of that calculated defeat was arranged by some of the same fearful Republicans who think that MARTA on a General Election or even Primary ballot will bring hordes of Democrats out to send incumbents home to “spend time with their families.”

The anti-MARTA amendment would prohibit MARTA from appearing on a Gwinnett ballot for seven years, because “we have to listen to the voice of the voters” as represented by the tiny minority who showed for an off-season election in March. The bill was not considered on the final day of the 2019 Session, but remains alive for 2020.

Plastic bags everywhere or preemption of local control over plastic packaging

SB 139 (2015) by Sen. Tyler Harper, R-Ocilla

In 2015, after the city of Tybee Island discussed banning plastic bags to keep them from trashing the beaches and ocean life, the plastic bag makers, the Chemistry Council, and some grocery chains tried to take away the rights of local governments to regulate plastics with SB 139. The bill, sponsored by Senator Tyler Harper, failed to pass the House in 2015. Now that some local governments are taking action to protect animals, people, and the oceans from an ever increasing burden of plastic pollution, there is concern that a new version of this preemption bill could return.

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100% of your donation will be
spent in Georgia to preserve and
protect our beautiful state.

For additional information, please
contact Gina Webber at
gina.webber@sierraclub.org

ENERGY

Dalton Utilities skipping referendum to borrow money

SB 43/HB 322 by Sen. Chuck Payne, R-Dalton/Rep. Tom McCall, R-Elberton

SB 43 and HB 322 were two different bills that were forced into a marriage on Sine Die (the last day of the 40-day session) when the contents of the former were amended onto the latter. SB 43 would allow Dalton Utilities to avoid a currently mandated public referendum when it issues bonds. A similar measure failed in 2018, and SB 43 was a second attempt. The bill passed the Senate and the House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee, but stalled in House Rules Committee.

HB 322 deals with local government procurement of goods and services from suppliers. SB 43 was attached to it in House Rules on Sine Die then sent to the floor for a vote. The amended bill passed by a single vote, but an opposing legislator from the Dalton area, Jason Ridley, R-Chatsworth, moved to reconsider. The House did so, and the bill failed on the second attempt.

Dalton Utilities is the smallest partner in the Plant Vogtle nuclear plant expansion project, and while the utility denies that project has anything to do with this bill, evidence in emails uncovered last year showed that Vogtle is very much in mind. The insistence of no Vogtle connection was one of the reasons the House rejected the bill. Dalton Utilities says it will be back in 2020 to try a third time. What the Vogtle story will be at that time is unknown.

Stopping public schools from paying for Plant Vogtle expansion

SB 112 by Sen. Lindsey Tippins, R-west Cobb

This bill would stop Georgia Power from collecting the Vogtle tariff on public schools since the completion date given when the tariff was enacted is long past. The rates are still being collected and are rising. The bill failed for want of a second to the Do Pass motion in the Senate Regulated Utilities Committee.

The bill remains available for action in 2020. Future reports to the Public Service Commission on Vogtle may include an increase in estimated cost and an even later completion date.

Repealing bounty for oil/gas wells

HB 119 by Rep. Park Cannon, D-Atlanta

This bill would repeal a state bounty for a successful oil or gas well that was enacted in the late 1950s. There have never been any successful oil or gas wells in the state, and given the need to reduce atmospheric carbon during the current period of increasing global heating, rewarding the discovery of more carbon fuel looks perverse. The bill was heard at a House Natural Resources subcommittee and there was no testimony offered in opposition. It remains available for action in 2020.

Preventing HOAs from prohibiting solar panels

HB 407 by Rep. Karla Drenner, D-Avondale Estates

This bill deals with Homeowners' Associations, many of which have rules that prohibit the installation of solar power in their neighborhoods. Drenner wants to outlaw such limitations and provide solar freedom for HOA members. The bill is still pending.

Fossil fuel phase out

HB 711 by Rep. David Dreyer, D-Atlanta

This bill was introduced too late in the 2019 Session to receive any attention. HB 711 sets forth a schedule for the Public Service Commission to require Georgia Power to phase out coal burning for power plants by 2030 and all other fossil fuels by 2040. The bill allows timely depreciation of power plants and related transmission facilities.

*Electric vehicle tax credit***

HB 732 by Rep. Todd Jones, R-South Forsyth

This bill creates a \$2,500 electric vehicle (EV) tax credit, a partial restoration of Georgia's best in the U.S. tax credit that was wiped out in 2015 by HB 170, the DOT's billion-dollar-a-year money grab. Georgia EV sales have dropped like a rock since the tax credit was abolished and the highest in the nation annual EV fee (\$200) was established. Now that a massive EV battery factory is going up in Jackson County near I-85 and Volkswagen is building a huge EV vehicle addition just across the state line in Chattanooga, it is hoped a modest tax credit can be restored.

COAL ASH

*Repeal of coal ash host surcharge exemption***

SB 123 by Sen. William Ligon, R-Brunswick

This bill repeals the host surcharge increase exemption for coal ash passed by Georgia Power lobbyists in the 2018 Session. The increased host fees did not start until July 1 of this year. Now that coal ash is pouring into Georgia from North Carolina, Florida, and Puerto Rico, maybe this outrageous theft of county host fees by Georgia Power can be reversed.

Resolution urging Georgia Power to clean up coal ash at Plant McDonough

HR 257 by Rep. Mary Frances Williams, D-Marietta

This resolution urges Georgia Power to fully excavate and coal ash at Plant McDonough in Smyrna in lined landfills. The resolution has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

"Right to know" and requirements for coal ash storage in landfills

HB 93/94 by Rep. Rick Williams, R-Milledgeville

HBs 93 and 94 were originally introduced by Rep. Jeff Jones, R-Brunswick, but he signed a letter urging that

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House Speaker David Ralston resign, effectively putting the brakes on any legislation he authored. So Rep. Rick Williams of Milledgeville, site of the now-removed Plant Branch, has taken over sponsorship of these measures. HB 93 is a “right to know” measure requiring public notice about dewatering, while HB 94 sets minimal requirements for the landfilling of coal ash, such as not allowing storage in wetlands or near groundwater. HB 93 got out of committee but no farther.

TRANSPORTATION

*Rural transit***

HB 511 by Rep. Keven Tanner, R-Dawsonville

HB 511 was mostly a rural transit bill to be funded by a 50-cent-per-ride fee on ride-sharing services, among other organizational changes for transit funding and administration. It failed to pass because of GA DOT opposition.

Atlanta airport takeover

SB 131 by Sen. Burt Jones, R-Jackson

This bill set in motion a process that would result in state control over Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. The House amended the bill to provide for an airport oversight committee and also added HB 511, the rural transit bill. The House passed the oversight committee version, so the bill is alive in the Senate.

Jet fuel tax break

HB 447 by Rep. Dominic LaRiccia, R-Douglas

HB 447 restored the Delta Airlines jet fuel tax break and passed the House, but it didn't pass the Senate.

Railroad fuel tax break

HB 189 by Rep. Vance Smith, R-Pine Mountain

This bill gave railroads a break on the taxes they pay for railroad fuel. It failed for want of a public purpose.

Flexibility for MARTA bond sales

SB 143 by Sen. Brandon Beach, R-Alpharetta

This bill would give MARTA the ability to exercise the same flexibility in determining the dates for the sale of its bonds as other public agencies. The bill was held up by irrational, possibly anti-MARTA opposition.

Train safety regulations

HB 190 by Rep. Rick Williams, R-Milledgeville

HB 190 would require a minimum of two people on a train crew to provide for worker and public safety and to maintain open grade crossings in the event of an unscheduled halt to a train's passage over a grade crossing. The bill has not received a vote.

Electric scooter regulation

SB 159/HB 454 by Sen. Steve Gooch, R-Dahlonega/Rep. Kevin Tanner, R-Dawsonville

These bills would have regulated electric scooters but were held for further negotiation.

LAND/WATER/COAST

Tax break for mineral sands mines

HB 592 by Rep. Steven Meeks, R-Screven

This bill was introduced too late for action during the 2019 Session but is written to create a special Forest Land Protection tax break for mineral sands mines in SE Georgia owned by the Tarbutton family of the kaolin mining industry. Now that coal miners from Alabama want to strip mine Trail Ridge next to the Okefenokee, it seems a poor time to give tax breaks to miners.

Regulation of disposal of sewage

HB 707 by Rep. Tom McCall, R-Elberton

This bill alters regulation of the land disposal of sewage sludge by Hall County businessman John Hulsey by the Dept. of Agriculture. It was added onto HB 512 by Rep. Sam Watson, R-Moultrie, creating a commodity commission for propane marketing. It remains to be seen if the rules promulgated by the Dept. of Agriculture will protect the neighbors of such operations. The bill hasn't received a vote in the House.

Injunctive relief for water treatment plants

HB 708 by Rep. Barry Fleming, R-Harlem

HB 708 provides injunctive relief for protection of water treatment plants that are adversely affected by the surface discharge of hazardous and septic materials into water supplies, another effort to control John Hulsey's land disposal business, which is only nominally regulated by the Agriculture Department.

TRUST FUNDS

*Giving the Legislature the ability to create programs where funds cannot be used elsewhere***

HR 164 by Rep. Jay Powell, R-Camila

This bill proposes a Constitutional Amendment that has been sought by Sierra Club for over a decade, allowing the legislature to create and abolish fee-based programs where the funds collected may not be diverted to other uses. The Senate passed a substitute that would make the current management of the Solid and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds into a Constitutional mandate, which would allow EPD to appropriate collected funds as it wishes. This is actually worse than what we do now, where at least the legislature controls the use of the funds, and not appointed bureaucrats. The Sierra Club Georgia Chapter supports the original House version of the bill.

Sierra Club, allies working for just, equitable rates for GA Power customers

BY STEPHEN STETSON

As autumn months stretch into winter, Sierra Club remains laser focused on making sure the Georgia Public Service Commission is adequately supervising our state's monopoly utility.

Currently, the centerpiece of that strategy involves intervening in the legal process that governs how Georgia Power will pay for building and maintaining our electrical infrastructure. Those financial conversations — and the PSC's oversight — will ultimately play into the economics of energy in Georgia, including what fuels are selected, how the fuels and energy are transmitted and stored, and, perhaps most importantly, how much we pay for all of it.

This is the first time in six years that these financial questions have been examined, in a semi-judicial process known as a "rate case." Although it's not actual litigation, it has similar components to a trial, including sworn witnesses, expert testimony, and a formal record. At the end of the process in December, our five elected Public Service Commissioners will enter a final order about the economics of our electricity.

In this particular proceeding, Georgia Power is seeking to increase rates as well as a fixed-charge that will increase your power bill even before you turn on your lightswitch. This mandatory monthly fee would increase from the current \$10/month to \$17.95/month, no matter how much, or how little, energy you use.

Sierra Club has intervened in the proceeding (along with several of our allies and other stakeholders) to try to minimize the impacts of this proposed hike. Sierra Club is also objecting to Georgia Power's proposal for funding the clean-up of toxic coal ash ponds across the state. The residual pollution left over from burning coal has been stored in muddy ponds alongside the banks of our rivers, and groups from around the country have pointed out the obvious dangers to groundwater and recreation sites.

Finally, the Sierra Club has also been encouraging Georgia Power to invest more in electric vehicle charging infrastructure. As more and more vehicle manufacturers are making a diverse set of EVs for the marketplace, it will be increasingly important for drivers to have sufficient charging infrastructure around the state to facilitate carbon-free mobility.

The questions about who pays for certain projects

remains very much up in the air. Thanks to volunteer activists and Sierra Club staff attorneys, our vision of clean energy and an economically just system will be front and center for the foreseeable future.

Throughout the months of the rate case, Sierra Club and other groups will work to raise public awareness of these issues, as well as overall awareness of the PSC and how it regulates utilities. With public pressure on the PSC and Georgia Power, the clean energy imperative ought to be well-heard and well-considered, shaping the landscape in Georgia for years to come.

WILDLANDS & WILDLIFE

Thanks to all who are helping protect the Okefenokee

BY RICKY LEROUX

As many of you know, the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter is fighting against a proposal to set up a mine outside the Okefenokee Swamp in south Georgia. Thanks to everyone who already sent comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urging them to stop the mine.

The Corps of Engineers set a September 12 deadline for submitting comments on the proposal, but our partners at the Southern Environmental Law Center have let us know that the Corps will still accept comments until they make a decision on a permit required for the mine. They just don't have to respond to the comments now that the deadline has passed.

All told, activists have sent in nearly 50,000 comments to the Corps of Engineers on this proposal. We've reopened our online form to send in comments and are asking everyone who hasn't done so yet to fill it out and tell the Corps of Engineers to protect the Okefenokee. Please spread the link far and wide to help us hit the 50,000-comment milestone. Remember, comments are considered "substantial" if they ask a question, so be sure to include a question in your message.

Visit bit.ly/ProtectTheOkefenokee to send in your comment.

Meanwhile, since that deadline passed, the Corps of Engineers released letters from the EPA and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division on the mining proposal, and both are critical of the lack of information in the permit application.

In its letter, the EPA finds that "this project, as proposed, may result in substantial and unacceptable impacts to aquatic resources of national importance..."

Keep making your voice heard and together we can stop this harmful project!



Georgians join activists across the planet in for September's #ClimateStrike

BY JILLIAN ELLER

Hundreds flocked to downtown Atlanta to participate in the Youth Climate Strike on Friday, September 20th. Activists from Zero Hour Georgia and Atlanta for the Planet staged the event, and the young organizers in Atlanta complemented the work of Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenager and environmental activist who established the Fridays for Future school strike movement.

The day of the Atlanta Youth Climate Strike was sunny and sweaty with temperatures in the mid- to high-80s, warmer than usual for late September. The crowd included adults, young people, seniors, babies in slings, individuals with mobility difficulties both physical and invisible, abled bodies, folks from a multitude of racial identities, locals, passersby, and business people on their lunch break. Action began at noon, marching from Atlanta City Hall to the Georgia State Capitol and continued with a poster-making party at Liberty Plaza. At 2 p.m., a slate of speakers addressed the crowd from the stairs of the Capitol, and a Climate Crisis Panel Discussion at the Trinity United Methodist Church followed.

The sights, sounds, and energy of the young movement leaders brought an overwhelmingly positive response from the crowd at large and to myself personally. Chants lead by Rev. Gerald Durley, young activists, and participants included, “No more coal, no more oil, keep our carbon in the soil” and a call-and-response chant of “‘What do we want?’ CLIMATE JUSTICE! ‘When do we want it?’ NOW!”



Youth leaders and attendees shared their fears, the reasons they were participating, and their advice to the public for next steps in action. Signs on display at the event used messages that ranged from blunt (“You’ll die of old age, we’ll die of climate change,” “There is no planet B”) to optimistic (“If you don’t act like adults, we will”) to humorous (“If the Earth dies, there will be no dogs”). Some members of the climate strike wore costumes, others donned shirts with climate justice messages.

The Atlanta Youth Climate Strike called to action the politicians with the ability to make reform. Globally, communities are beginning to recognize the severity of the climate crisis as the physical signs are abundantly clear: extreme weather patterns, including hurricanes, forest fires becoming regular occurrences, rising temperatures causing glacial ice to melt at rapid rates, and recurring flooding of coastal areas. Marginalized individuals endure these effects disproportionately, and the symptoms of the climate crisis also take a toll on our agricultural systems and fresh water supply. I encourage everyone with the means and the will to find an environmental cause dear to them and act upon it. Youth organizers from Atlanta believed in the power of collectivizing, and as a result were part of the largest international day of action. You too can make a difference.

FALL 2019 GROUP NEWS

CENTENNIAL GROUP

SERVING COBB, CHEROKEE & NORTH FULTON

BY BETTYE HARRIS & LYNN WALSTON



After our summer hiatus, we resumed monthly meetings on September 5th with a well-attended “End-of-Summer Centennial Hot Topics” (i.e. Sterigenics, coal ash, sustainability, Cobb transit, parks & green-space, chapter update). Thanks to our panelists Rep. Erick Allen, D-Smyrna; GA Chapter Chair Jeff Schoenberg; community leaders Maryline Blackburn, Leonard Robinson, Liz Martin, and Matt Stigall; and Centennial Group leaders Roberta Cook, Cynthia Patterson, and Todd Daniel.

See more meeting photos at bit.ly/CentGroupPanel.



EAST COBBER: STEPPING OUT & STEPPING UP!

Once again, we participated in the annual “East Cobber Parade & Festival” on September 14th. Thanks to volunteers who marched in the parade and who staffed outreach tables for both the Centennial Group and the Cobb4Transit.org group.

See more photos at bit.ly/EastCobber2019.

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

We are sorry to lose two of our favorite volunteers who depart this month for wonderful new horizons. Mary Miller has served as our group delegate to chapter excom, and provided excellent leadership in areas of clean/affordable energy (CEFA & PAYS), outreach, and outings. Mary has accepted an exciting new job opportunity in the Washington, D.C. area. Pat Williams, a dedicated climate change warrior, teacher, citizen lobbyist, letter writer, and outreach volunteer, will continue her retirement and activism in beautiful Asheville, NC. Thank you, Mary and Pat!



OUR REMAINING 2019 MONTHLY MEETINGS:

November 7: “Burning Man and Beyond!” with Sierran Janet Westervelt’s fascinating account of her recent cross-country drive to the “Burning Man Festival” in Nevada, seven National Parks and other points west in the mini school bus she converted (on her own) into an energy-efficient travel R/V (with solar panels). Time: 7 p.m. Location: Life University, 1269 Barclay Circle, Marietta 30062.

December 5th: “Annual Centennial Holiday Party & Potluck.” Special details to be announced soon. Time: 7 p.m. Location: Avery Gallery, 390 Roswell Street, Marietta 30060.

GROUP INFORMATION

Monthly meetings: 1st Thursday of each month, welcome and refreshments at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions please contact Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com.

Website: sierraclub.org/georgia/centennial
Facebook: facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club

GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

SERVING GWINNETT COUNTY

BY DAN FRIEDMAN

The first leaves have turned yellow and fallen, a harbinger (hopefully) of cooler weather to come. Several weeks ago, the first marathon seven-hour environmental town hall meeting with 10 presidential candidates aired. Then, in mid-September, the third Democratic debate was televised. If you, like me, were a bit overwhelmed by the sheer number of candidates, I hope the smaller number have helped you begin to construct a short list.

Meanwhile, we have two senate elections coming in 2020: Sen. David Purdue's reelection and Sen. Johnny Isakson's open seat. On a more local level, the Gwinnett County Commission Chair and commissioners for Districts 1 and 3 will be on the ballot. There are also U.S. House seats up for election, particularly House District 6. Suffice to say, the next 14 months will be very interesting, increasingly fast paced, and will impact all of our lives. The Gwinnett Group is planning to have

as many candidates talk with our group as possible.

Our recent past meetings have included topics such as electric vehicles and how global warming affects migration. This month's program will have Anthony Pacheco with Asian Americans Advancing Justice as we look forward to working with AAAJ on mutually beneficial issues. In October, Sam Collier with the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign will talk about the Sierra Club's efforts to get cities to transition to 100% clean energy.

GROUP INFORMATION

Monthly meetings: Third Thursday of each month, social at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.; Berkmar High School (405 Pleasant Hill Road, Lilburn). Enter the high school grounds from Pleasant Hill and enter the school via the covered walkway at the top of the hill.

Website: sierraclub.org/georgia/Gwinnett

LAGRANGE GROUP

SERVING THE LAGRANGE AREA

BY PAULA DARDEN

The LaGrange Group over the summer to continued to lobby our Congressional senators and representatives to support the Restore Our Parks bill, which is Senate bill S.500 and House bill H.R. 1225. This bill will provide money from the National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog in our national parks. It will devote up to \$1.3 billion a year from revenues generated on federal land by the energy industry, including renewable energy. We urge Sierra Club members to call Senators Isakson and Perdue and their local Representative and ask them to co-sponsor and support this bill.

Our local initiative, the 25 bluebird boxes we installed in and around the city of LaGrange in March 2019, are continuing to be monitored by club members Sam and Laura Breyfogle, and they expect to have an excellent monitoring report to present to the club by early 2020.

SUMMER PARTY!

On the fun side, the club had its summer party at Lake Martin on June 28, with picnicking and activities in and on the water. The club conducted a paddle on the Chattahoochee below West Point Dam on July 20, and a 13-mile paddle on the Chattahoochee on August 24.



We post all our upcoming outings on the Georgia Chapter website and on our Facebook page, and we welcome anyone to join us.

GROUP INFORMATION

Monthly meetings: Third Tuesday of each month, social at 6:30 p.m., program at 7 p.m.; St. Mark's Episcopal Church's Parish Hall, 207 N. Greenwood Street, LaGrange.

Website: sierraclub.org/georgia/lagrange

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/300840033370271

METRO ATLANTA GROUP

SERVING ATLANTA, DEKALB & SOUTH FULTON

BY NINA DUTTON

In response to a call from indigenous earth defenders for a global day of action in solidarity against the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest (#Sept5Act4Amazonia), Sierra Club Georgia Chapter and Sierra Club Metro Atlanta Group co-hosted a demonstration along with several aligned organizations outside the Brazilian consulate. At this rally, we sent a message to the Brazilian government that the world is watching and called out the Bolsonaro government for enabling big agribusinesses like Cargill and retailers like Costco to destroy the Amazon through their supply chains. Toward the end of the demonstration, the consul general came out for a surprise meeting with us. Many thanks to Beyond Coal organizer Neil Sardana and all the activists at the rally who thoughtfully expressed our perspective and reasoning in our surprise meeting with the Brazilian consul general. For Judy Conder's video documenting the action, please see youtu.be/5k4y32QEfHY.

RECENT MEETINGS

July 9: Our monthly group meeting focused on city tree ordinance updates. We hosted four speakers on this topic: Trees Atlanta director of outreach Judy Yi, arborist and activist Stephanie Coffin, City in the Forest chair Margaret Brady, and South River Watershed Alliance president Jacqueline Echols. Cat Sunstone — a Sierra Club clean energy fellow for the summer — also made a pitch for hosting and attending civic dinners about the transition to clean energy in the city of Atlanta and in Georgia at large.

Aug. 13: We revived the old annual tradition of a

Metro Atlanta Group summer picnic at Glenlake Park, just north of downtown Decatur, where we discussed environmental issues and built community, meeting regulars and new faces alike.

Sept. 10: At this meeting focused on the Georgia Power rate case, we heard from Stephen Stetson, Sierra Club Beyond Coal senior campaign representative, and Neil Sardana, Georgia Sierra Club Beyond Coal campaign organizer. The rate case process is expected to continue through December 2019. If you're ready to take action to stop the fee hike and push Georgia Power to clean up their coal ash properly without passing on the cost to the public, look out for rallies and opportunities to speak out on the rate case throughout the fall and winter. And if you want to take the next step to organize around the rate case, you're invited to join the Beyond Coal organizing team.

STAY UP TO DATE

If you don't get our monthly meeting announcements, sign up for email updates through the Georgia Chapter website and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zipcode.

GROUP INFORMATION

Monthly meetings: Second Tuesday of each month, social at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.; Sierra Club Georgia Chapter office, 743 E. College Avenue, Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030. Contact Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail.com) to confirm details.

Website: sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/SierraClubATL



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SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP

SERVING AUGUST & SURROUNDING AREAS

BY LINDA McBURNEY

We have shout-outs for two of our members, Bill Jackson and Richard Dillenbeck.

Bill has been our membership chair for the past three years. He has also been an EXCOM member, an outings leader, a volunteer with Adopt-a-Highway, and in the winner's circle of SRG's Challenger Award each of the three years it was held. The latter award was given to the top three volunteers that participated in the most events that included leading/participating in outings, AAH, etc.



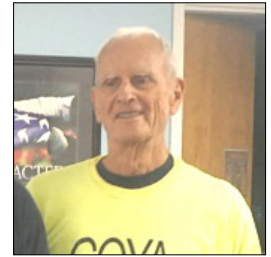
Bill activated SRG's social media presence on Facebook, maintains our ListServ account, and worked with Chapter and National staff attempting to resolve technology issues with the Sierra Club's software programs, like Helen, Salesforce, and Campfire. He works tirelessly to educate the less technology savvy members ... and that is no small task!

Richard has been a long time SRG outings leader and volunteer with Adopt-a-Highway. He also walks from two to seven miles every day, carrying a bag to pick up the litter on the way, when he is home in Augusta and when he is at his summer home in China, Maine. Last summer, he decided to do something about the litter in China, ME.

In his own words he said:

"Last summer, I decided to form a group of volunteers and this year, organized a team leader for each section of the main roads, each section about a mile long. Then I went door to door and solicited volunteers for each section. We ended up with about 50 volunteers for the 9 miles. The town newspaper was very supportive and provided good publicity, the town itself supplied gloves, bags, and some safety vests, and I bought others. Out of maple branches, I fashioned sticks with a nail in one end which could be used to stab and pick up some forms of litter. Some volunteers used 'grabbers.' We did this every 'Second Saturday.' We knew it would take time to change the habits of litterers, and we have not yet totally succeeded. Trash is back the next day but less. We will resume next summer."

Hat's off to SRG's octogenarian!



GROUP INFORMATION

Monthly meetings: Third Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Church on Walton Way, Augusta.

Website: sierraclub.org/georgia/Savannah-River



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OUTINGS

Veterans, allies enjoy a hike, paddle at Stone Mountain

BY LORNETT VESTAL

On Saturday, September 14th, the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter and Sierra Club Military Outdoors joined our partners at REI for the second Annual Outdoor Industry Hike and Paddle.

After weeks of 90-degree weather, a cool and cloudy Georgia morning was a welcome sight. Several veterans and Sierra Club members gathered for our day hike with REI guides. I signed folks in and gave what I must say was a riveting trailhead talk. James and Justin at REI served as our guides and took folks on the Stone Mountain Nature Trail. There were tons of jokes and a lot of awe on the trail.

After a couple of hours of sightseeing and hiking in one of Georgia's most popular outdoor spaces, folks returned for a working lunch with more friends joining us for the afternoon sessions. Hey, people love a free meal. We ate some of Stone Mountain's best pizza from Stone Mountain Cafe.

During lunch, we got a talk from David Sapp, an REI employee and Team River Runner Atlanta Chapter Coordinator. He spoke about his transition from being in the U.S. Marines Corps to the civilian world. He used nature to help him transition but still lacked a career that gave him purpose. As a teenager he worked at the local REI, and years later, after a chance encounter with an old REI manager, he was invited back to the REI family. He has been working with for REI for the last several years. He said he was skeptical at first but came around thanks to being given a chance to pursue his passion: the love of outdoors.

He shared with us that an internal REI survey found that 60% of their most productive managers and outdoor trainers were military veterans, showing that our skills learned during our time in service can easily translate into civilian world leadership.

BriGette McCoy then spoke about her organization: Women's Veterans Social Justice Network. BriGette shared her story of how nature helped her transition from the Army to civilian life. She met Stacy Bare, who encouraged her to further pursue time in the outdoors. She dropped weight and felt better about herself, which led her to getting outdoors even more. She even joined the Sierra Club Military Outdoors for our first ever Artic Wildlife Refuge outing in Alaska. She also served as a keynote speaker at our SCMO fly-In in DC to lobby on behalf of the Accelerating Veterans Outdoors Recovery Act. Of course, I spoke about the military outdoors and the Sierra Club, letting folks know how they can get involved through volunteering as well as other ways they can support us.

Then folks got a guided float at Stone Mountain Lake



and caught some scenic views of the historic park. The lake stands in the shadow of the infamous mountain. We laughed, we shared stories, and the sun was kept at bay until the very end of our float. Good news: We only had one swimmer. I had a chance to deep dive with David Sapp on how the outdoors can help veterans and save lives.

Events like this one not only highlight the healing power of nature — they show how veterans can translate their skills learned during their time in service to leadership positions in the outdoor industry. We are happy to continue this new tradition for another year. We want to thank our incredible partners at REI and send a special thank you to our friends and colleagues at the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter; The Mission Continues; Team River Runner; and The Women Veterans Social Justice Network. We're proud that veterans, military, and the broader community can come together to share time in the great outdoors.



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CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS

CANDIDATE BIOS

GEORGIA CHAPTER

Berneta L. Haynes

Residence: Atlanta

Joined: 2019

Berneta L. Haynes is currently the Senior Director of Policy and Access at Georgia Watch, where she works to make quality healthcare, financial literacy, energy programs and civil justice more equitable and accessible for all. An attorney and champion of equity and justice, Berneta brings a unique mix of legal advocacy work, writing expertise and innovative use of digital journalism to impact pressing consumer issues. Previously, she spent several years practicing environmental law and championing energy equity at Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago and Southern Environmental Law Center in Atlanta. Outside of her advocacy work, she is a published novelist and runs a website showcasing indie authors. Berneta received a J.D. from University of Iowa College of Law, a B.A. in English, Psychology, and Writing from Drury University, and a Master's in English from the University of Iowa. Her interest in equity and justice stems from her liberal arts background and research around intersections of race, class, and gender in American culture.

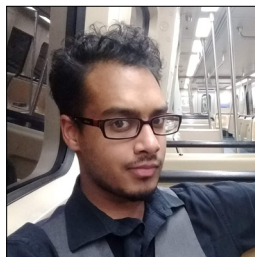


Tejas Kotak

Residence: Atlanta

Joined: 2017

I grew up in the Gwinnett suburbs, and moved to Atlanta a decade ago to attend Georgia Tech. I've been environmentally-conscious since I was young, and I try to live my values, so I live car-free, eat a mostly-vegetarian diet, and I work as a Transportation Planner with the Atlanta Regional Commission, a government agency that straight-facedly discusses climate change



and local mitigation tactics.

For the past two years I have been Chair of the RAIL Committee. Transportation policy and transit expansion is something I care a lot about as I rely on MARTA (and good sidewalks!) to get around, and because transportation is the largest contributor to climate change in the US. Notable accomplishments as Chair include moderating a More MARTA panel with representatives from MARTA and various community stakeholders, which helped our members understand MARTA's plan and helped push MARTA to change it for the better; and bringing in speakers from local government and government agencies to talk about transit and transportation projects in the Atlanta region.

If elected to ExComm, I hope to continue to use my background in transportation policy to help guide Sierra Club efforts towards creating a greener, cleaner, and more equitable Georgia.

Amneh Minkara

Residence: Atlanta

Joined: 2018

I'd like to thank the Georgia Chapter for the opportunity to run for a position on the Executive Committee! My name is Amneh Minkara, and I'm a 22-year-old law student at Emory University. I grew up in Cobb County near Kennesaw Mountain before moving down to Atlanta to study natural resource law and environmental policy. I've been volunteering since the 2018 election season when our Environmental Law Society joined the Sierra Club canvassing efforts ahead of crucial elections for the Public Service Commission.

Since then, I've been a regular volunteer with many of the Georgia Chapter's projects, including the Beyond Coal Campaign. As a local leader with the Sunrise Movement, a youth movement focused on promoting the Green New Deal, my focus has been on energizing young people around elections and environmental issues both locally and at the national level.

I believe I'd bring a lot of important skills and qualities to the Ex-Com. While I am a Georgia native and



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GEORGIA CHAPTER (CONTINUED)

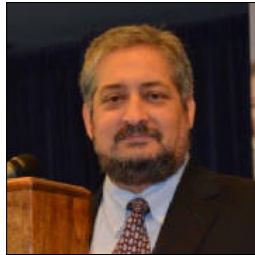
I am deeply connected to our local environmental issues, I have also been shaped by other aspects of my identity. I am a proud member of the LGBT community and the daughter of a Muslim immigrant. I view intersectionality across identities and issues to be crucial to achieving our collective goals.

Jeff Schoenberg

Residence: Dunwoody

Joined: 2012

I have been on ExCom for a couple of terms and am currently serving in my first year as Chapter Chair. It has been a great deal of work, but it feels like a privilege. As we are currently dealing with significant staff transition, continuity in leadership is important. I have been a champion for professionalizing our local fundraising so we can better engage in Georgia-specific priorities. I also demanded we do some strategic planning to better align our staffing with our conservation priorities. My first principle is that we must do a better job integrating our statewide volunteer base into the life and work of the organization. Our strength really is in our numbers. With thousands of fired up activists, we will have the power to change how Georgia works on energy, conservation, sustainability and climate. I hope you will give me the chance to continue serving your Sierra Club.



Stacy Shelton

Residence: Atlanta

Joined: 2019

My first encounter with the Georgia Chapter was in 2002 when I met the lobbying duo of Mark Woodall and Neill Herring at the Capitol. I'd just started covering the environmental beat for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Not only did those two seem to have more fun than anyone else, they also helped make sense of the confounding developments under the Gold Dome.

Since leaving the newspaper, I've been on a path of increasing environmental advocacy. From 2009 to 2014, I worked in communications for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Atlanta. My favorite projects were a



web-based series localizing climate change impacts on plants and animals, and building public-private partnerships around proactive wildlife conservation.

In 2014 I took a timeout to fulfill a long-held desire to attend law school and moved to Vermont. After graduating, I clerked in Vermont's unique environmental court. Today I'm an associate attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center where I assist our senior and staff attorneys in coal ash work and litigation related to Plant Vogtle.

Here's what I've learned so far, something the Sierra Club figured out decades ago: environmental progress doesn't need to wait on the federal government. Clean water, clean air, clean energy and abundant wildlife are local choices. I want to help Georgia make the right decisions, and appreciate this opportunity to run for the Executive Committee.

Amanda Woomer

Residence: Atlanta

Joined: 2019

As a Georgia native who cares deeply about conserving the state's varied ecosystems, I am both honored and excited to be considered for the Georgia Sierra Club's Executive Committee. Environmental conservation is a passion of mine, and this passion extends from my personal life to my professional endeavors.

I currently sit on the board of the Atlanta Audubon Society and support its efforts to build places where both birds and people can thrive through conservation and advocacy. You can find educational signs I created for Audubon's bird friendly garden as well as during my volunteer work for the Piedmont Park Conservancy in the park's Piedmont Commons. I also recently became involved with the Sierra Club's Wildlands Committee and am excited to grow my contribution there. In my professional life, I have worked with Conservation International and other organizations to use my skills in monitoring and evaluation to support positive engagement with communities. Environmental impact has also never been far from my mind in my work with The Carter Center and now Habitat for Humanity International.

My weekends are spent paddling Georgia's streams or hiking its trails, so protecting our natural lands is personal for me. I strongly believe that environmental conservation cannot happen without collaboration, hard work, and deep reflection. While new to Sierra Club, I hope to use my professional skills and personal passion to further the Club's work.



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CENTENNIAL GROUP

Jennie Bartee

I would like to serve on the executive committee of the Centennial Group to help bring positive changes in the environment, particularly in my local area. Earth now faces clear and present dangers requiring committed individuals to address climate change with science-based measures. I am committed to that challenge and to engaging others into service for our planet.



I have always been an environmentalist and grew up playing in the dirt, collecting cicada shells and “roly-polies”, and climbing trees, experiences that made me truly appreciate what nature affords us and what serious threats exist. Having a sense of fairness and the importance of engaging and looking out for vulnerable, less-fortunate communities are also part of my upbringing.

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2003. I am also active with Cobb Progressives, Climate Reality (I attended Al Gore's 3-day training in Atlanta); Cobb4Transit, and Sustainable Smyrna.

Todd Daniel

As I write this, the Amazon Rainforest is burning. Most of the fires are started by farmers and ranchers who are opting for immediate commercial gain while destroying our planet. There's little I can do to stop it, but I can help by supporting one



of the world's greatest environmental organizations. What I am seeing with climate change destroys my soul, but doing green volunteer work keeps me going. I thank you for considering me for the Centennial Group Excom. A Sierra Club member since 1997, I am a former chair of the group and have held various positions on the state and national levels. My vision is to see the Club become more diverse, in terms of age, race, and political orientation. It will take all of us, working as a team, to reduce the carbon in the atmosphere and to create a world that is healthy and sustainable for all living creatures, as well as future generations.

Lynn Walston

I am a semi-retired school teacher, and I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1985. Quite a few years ago, in the 1990's, I served on the Executive Committee shortly after the Centennial Group was formed.



The club has changed and grown quite a bit, but back then, I enjoyed writing an occasional article for the newsletter and participating in local decisions, programs, outings, and retreats. I have continued to follow the club's activities over the years, and I regularly respond to Sierra Club and other environmental organizations' calls for action. Activism has become a naturally acquired passion and concern for me.

I am particularly passionate about preserving land for parks and hiking, transit expansion, coal ash and other toxic waste removal, since these are current Centennial Group initiatives.

It would be an honor to serve on the Centennial Executive Committee again.

GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

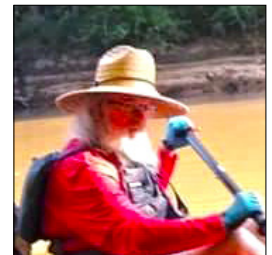
Dan Friedman

My name is Dan Friedman, and I am running for re-election. I have been Chairperson and I have been a member since 2002. During my tenure, we have reached out and worked with environmental and civic organizations. We have expanded our water monitoring program and have had an impact in local elections. I want to continue our progress and would appreciate your support.



Michael Hallen

I am Michael Hallen, from Snellville, and I have been a member since 1999. I currently lead the Stream Monitoring program and want to continue to lead that program in Gwinnett. I have been active activist in county, state, and national elections and would continue these activities in the all important election year in 2020.



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GREATER GWINNETT GROUP (CONTINUED)

Scott Presson

I am Scott M. Presson, and I am a candidate for the Gwinnett ExCom. My wife and I have been joint Sierra Club members since 1988, and we have resided in Lawrenceville for 20 years. I am retired from a career in public health. I have become an active volunteer in the Georgia Sierra Club for the past two years, volunteering for the Clean Energy for All Committee on the Chapter level. My focus is the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Program, which aims to encourage cities and counties to commit to a transition to 100% clean, renewable energy. I will work towards, and hope to see, Gwinnett County and the cities within make a Ready for 100 commitment. I regularly attend the Gwinnett Group meetings, and I look forward to contributing as a member of the Gwinnett ExCom.



Sharon Yun

I am running for the Sierra Club Gwinnett Group Executive Committee because I deeply appreciate the work of Sierra Club. As a testament to this, my husband Thomas Yun and I just signed up as lifetime members. I believe in putting my beliefs into action, and Sierra Club gives me an opportunity to be engaged in the political process to enact change in regards to environmental and climate justice. The meetings are always very educational and help me be a more informed and engaged citizen. I want to see this resource for the community continue by carrying the torch our dedicated leaders have carried for so long. Corporations and wealthy elites have been pushing their harmful agendas on the nation and world for too long, and it is overdue for the silent majority to be heard and represented in policies that reflect their values and needs. The health of our entire planet is at stake and our children are crying out begging us to do something about it. I want to do right by them.



LaGRANGE GROUP

Joanna Baxter

My mother was instrumental in teaching my brother and me a love and appreciation of the outdoors. She was an avid, outspoken environmentalist with the Georgia Conservancy and was instrumental in the preservation work of the Swamp of Toa in Albany. My brother became a National Park Ranger and spent many years working in Yosemite. It was during this time that I learned about John Muir and began reading extensively about him, his passion for the environment, and the beginning of the Sierra Club. I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2000. At this time, I am also actively working with the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and am an instructor on the Floating Classroom on West Point Lake.



Ken Fiske

Ken has served two terms on the LaGrange Executive Committee and is ready to jump in for another round. His leadership contributions have included organizing teams for roadside litter pickups and West Point Lake cleanups. He enjoys both kayaking and hiking, though he claims he excels in neither.



Ellen Parkhurst

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



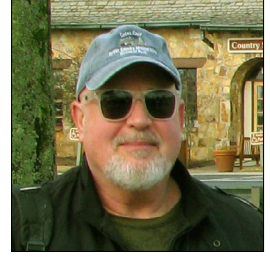
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LaGRANGE GROUP (CONTINUED)

Travis Towns

Growing up in the countryside of Mountville and wanting to be an Indian when I grew up gave me a reverence for Mother Nature from an early age. Going hiking, camping, and all sorts of outdoor activities in Boy Scouts further instilled a respect for our environment. My Eagle Scout project was the creation of

a nature trail, complete with identification of native trees, behind our local elementary school. For the past two decades, I have been a member of the Wilderness Network of Georgia, a men's outdoors club, and have held office in the past. Being more active in the Sierra Club LaGrange Group for the past four years, I now serve on the Georgia Chapter Executive Committee.



METRO ATLANTA GROUP

Max H. Brown

I have served my Metro Atlanta Group as Outings Leader for two years; I serve on the Wildlands Committee, as well as volunteering to table events such as the Banff Film Festival and the Hemlock Festival. I support our Sierra Club frequently at rallies and protests. I also work part-time at REI and volunteer for the Atlanta Audubon Society. These activities allow me the opportunity to promote my love of nature and to defend our public lands. Being a part of Sierra Club is the very best way to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.



made an effort to connect the Sierra Club community with ways to make a difference by plugging into Chapter campaigns and the work of local aligned organizations.

Two years ago in my candidate statement, I wrote of the urgency of the environmental issues we face. But after two more years of intense storms and slow disasters alike, I feel the urgency more strongly now. (Many of us do.) In a new term, I plan to build collaborations more intentionally with aligned groups, as well as to work smarter to help people in our area become effective environmental activists.

Norman Slawsky

I currently serve as the MAG delegate to the GA Chapter Excom and as the Chapter fundraising chair, a member of the Chapter HR committee, and a member of the Chapter political committee. I have previously served as the Chapter vice-chair and chair of the Chapter political committee. In addition, I was the Board Chair of GreenLaw, a nonprofit environmental law firm. I retired after 35 years as a labor lawyer. I am also a volunteer with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Citizenship Clinics, and the Senior University of Greater Atlanta. The Sierra Club is the only national environmental organization with a combination of volunteers and staff which has effectively pursued an agenda to ameliorate climate change while working to deal with environmental justice issues. This struggle continues and I want to continue to be part of it.



Nina Dutton

In early 2014, along with Marinangeles Gutierrez, I answered a call from Georgia Sierra Club to host a rally against the Keystone XL pipeline. I then began to take part in clean energy campaigns and assist with events.

Since joining Metro Atlanta Group's executive committee in 2015, I became chair and was elected to another term in 2017. As chair, I maintain group communications and collaborate on planning meetings. Over the past 4 years, I have



CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS INSTRUCTIONS

Support democracy in the Sierra Club by taking the time to vote. Follow the steps outlined here to cast your vote.

Chapter Voting

All members of the Georgia Chapter are eligible to vote for up to four (4) Chapter Executive Committee candidates on the ballot on page 23. You will find the Chapter candidate statements on pages 17-18.

Group Voting

Members may also vote in ONE group election. You will find the group candidate statements for the Centennial, Greater Gwinnett, LaGrange, and Metro Atlanta Groups on pages 19-21. Not all groups are using the Georgia Sierran for their election ballots. If your group is not listed, please contact your group leadership (see directory on pages 4-5) to inquire about your group's Executive Committee election.

Online voting

For the first time, voting for both the chapter and local groups' executive committees can be done online. Visit **sierra-club.org/georgia/Election2019** to cast your ballot online. Electronic ballots must be completed by 5 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2019. You may vote online or via a paper ballot, but not both.

If both are submitted, only one will be counted.

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 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2019. Mail or deliver to:
Georgia Sierra Club Elections
743 East College Ave., Suite B
Decatur, GA 30030

Ballot Verification/Counting

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee on Thursday, Nov. 14, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743 East College Avenue, Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or

send a representative to do so.

REMEMBER:

- 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 in column B.
- Everyone may vote for candidates for Georgia Chapter, as well as candidates ONLY ONE Group.
- Vote for up to the number of candidates indicated on the ballot. If too many boxes are checked in either column, the ballot will be declared invalid.
- If using a paper ballot, detach and mail the entire ballot page. Make sure your mailing label is still attached to the back. Mail the ballot to the Georgia Chapter Office.
- Paper ballots must be received at the Georgia Chapter Office no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019. Online ballots must be cast by 5 p.m. Nov. 14, 2019.

Questions?

For questions regarding the Executive Committee elections, please call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262, or email georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org.

CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS BALLOT

INSTRUCTIONS:

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 member should vote in column A and the other in column B**.

Every member may vote in the Georgia Chapter Executive Committee election, but you may only vote in **one** Group's Executive Committee election.

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**.

Remember, you can vote online at **sierraclub.org/georgia/Election2019** or send in a paper ballot, but not both.

GEORGIA CHAPTER

Executive Committee Candidates
See candidate statements on pages 17-18

Vote for up
to **FOUR**
candidates

4

	A	B
Berneta Haynes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tejas Kotak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amneh Minkara	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeff Schoenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stacy Shelton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amanda Woomer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LAGRANGE GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates
See candidate statements on pages 20-21

Vote for up
to **FOUR**
candidates

4

	A	B
Joanna Baxter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Fiske	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ellen Parkhurst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travis Towns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CENTENNIAL GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates
See candidate statements on page 19

Vote for up
to **THREE**
candidates

3

	A	B
Jennie Bartee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Todd Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lynn Walston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

METRO ATLANTA GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates
See candidate statements on page 21

Vote for up
to **THREE**
candidates

3

	A	B
Max H. Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nina Dutton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Norman Slawsky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

Executive Committee Candidates
See candidate statements on pages 19-20

Vote for up
to **THREE**
candidates

3

	A	B
Dan Friedman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Hallen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scott Presson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sharon Yun	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



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743 E. College Ave., Suite B
Decatur, GA 30030

Change service requested

Get Involved!

Volunteer
sierraclub.org/georgia/volunteer

Join a Local Group
sierraclub.org/georgia/localgroups

Get Outside
sierraclub.org/georgia/outings

VISIT US ONLINE

Check out our website (sierraclub.org/georgia) for all sorts of great resources and opportunities, including a complete listing of all conservation committee chairs, issue leaders, and group leaders.

VOLUNTEER

Be a part of the legacy! Sign up today to help us protect Georgia's environment: bit.ly/VolunteerForGASC.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: @GASierraClub

Twitter: @gasierraclub

Instagram: @gasierraclub

Meetup: Georgia Sierra Club

YouTube: Georgia Sierra Club

LinkedIn: Georgia Sierra Club

SmugMug: gasierraclub.smugmug.com