



Sierran

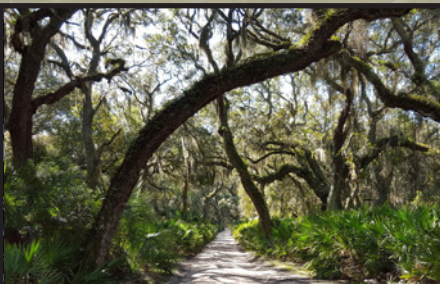
To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

The Movement Ahead

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New Threat to Cumberland *Page 7*

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Resist, Recruit, Train, and Sustain

Usually if something bad happens on a Tuesday, you begin to feel better about it by Friday—unless that something bad includes waking up to an imminent four-year battle about environmental protection rollbacks, clean energy investment cuts, and slashes in funding for climate science research. It's a tough reality to accept, but it is happening, and although it makes sense to fear the danger of going backwards after coming so far—we are ready for this fight, because we, as a movement, have been here before.

I got my start in politics protesting the secret energy task force put together by George W. Bush and Dick Cheney in 2001—a task force dominated by fossil fuel industry lobbyists and energy executives, all planning an energy future full of more carbon burning, more toxic pollution and less concern for what global warming would mean for our country.

We lost that day, but it galvanized the environmental movement in a way I had never seen, especially in the final months leading up to the election. Those last two months, I witnessed a cascade of Sierra Club members showing up, speaking up, donating and volunteering all across Georgia. So as we look ahead to a tumultuous four years, I say again: We. Are. Ready. For this fight.

As the Georgia Chapter begins 2017, our priorities, challenges and op-



Ted Terry, Chapter Director

portunities fall into four areas: Resist, Recruit, Train and Sustain.

This year will be our inauguration of resistance to fight the multitudes of anti-environmental politicians and bureaucrats every step of the way.

Resist—This defensive work will play out in the courts, in Congress, in the statehouse, in the marketplace and in the streets. It will involve nearly every component of the Sierra Club. Part of this resistance will include a strong stand with our allies, particularly communities of color, and continuing to speak out against racism, xenophobia, sexism, bigotry and hate.

Recruit—In the past sixty days, we have seen an outpouring of support

from the public in the form of donations, memberships, volunteer recruitment and social media posts. We will continue to aggressively recruit new activists, volunteers and donors. Our grassroots efforts are the foundation of our strength, and we will work to engage and activate a new generation of Sierra Club leaders.

Train—A larger membership and a deeper pool of activists will help our impact, but how we develop those resources is just as important. In 2017, we will invest more in staff and volunteer training than we have ever done before, including grassroots tactics, digital strategy, direct action, and education on conservation issues.

Sustain—We have tough fights ahead, but we must refuse to remain on the defensive during the next four years. We will continue to make clean-energy and transit progress in cities and counties, in the private sector, with the Public Service Commission, and we will increase our investments in those areas where we can stay on the offensive. We must relentlessly fight against fossil fuels and push for clean energy and smart transportation policies at the city and state levels.

The next four years will be rough and tumble, but I know we are ready for the fight.

Will you join us? 🌲

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



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

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 x221** or **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.

Pollution, Transit, Energy Hot Topics at State Capitol

By Mark Woodall

As the Georgia *Sierran* goes to press, the 2017 Georgia General Assembly has already set March 30 as its 40th and final day. Several bills have already appeared concerning the Sierra Club's legislative priorities in the categories of energy, transportation, water and land protection and no rollbacks. Now is the time to get involved and let your State Representative and your State Senator hear your support for the environment. Go to www.legis.ga.gov to find the contact info for your elected officials as well as all things concerning the Georgia General Assembly.

Stopping rollbacks of health and safety protection is always a critical activity. Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and the Senate GOP caucus have made Senate Bill 2 a priority. SB 2 is a sweeping attack on health, safety and the environment of Georgia. SB 2 includes all the old favorites of the big polluters who don't like environmental protection such as cost-benefit analysis and legislative override of regulations. The certification of review by the Attorney General is a new way to achieve paralysis by analysis. SB 2 is said to be revenge on the City of Atlanta for killing SB 321 last session. SB 321 was the attempt by Selig Enterprises and the Council for Quality Growth to gut the Commercial Building Sustainability Ordinance passed by the City of Atlanta. SB 321 was defeated and SB 2 needs to be defeated as well.

After suffering defeat on the House floor in 2015, the American Progressive Bag Alliance is back with the same bill they have been trying to pass all over the United States which would preempt cities and counties from regulating plastic bags or any other packaging. If anyone wants proof that big corporations have too much power and influence in politics, the "Plastic Bags Everywhere" campaign is it. First, the Bag Alliance hired former State Senator Doug Stoner and former Cobb Commissioner Louie Hunter. Now they have added the Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough lobby team which includes former State Senator Chuck Clay, Helen Sloat, Stan Jones and Jon Howell. In addition, Publix has 7 lobbyists and the convenience and grocery stores have many as well. A lot of people



power is needed to overcome the Bag Alliance whose members include ExxonMobil.

Following November's historic victory for MARTA expansion in Atlanta, it was hoped that the people of DeKalb County and Fulton County outside Atlanta would be allowed to vote on an additional 1/2 penny sales tax for transit as passed in Atlanta. Unfortunately, language to DeKalb's HOST sales tax break for homeowners blocked the additional vote for a DeKalb SPLOST in November. Now DeKalb legislators seem to have made the \$500 million SPLOST for roads, parks, etc.

a priority for the 2017 session instead of a MARTA expansion vote. There is also continued opposition to additional MARTA funding from north Fulton cities and legislators.

While failure to move MARTA expansion forward is disappointing, other important transportation bills are moving. HB 134 sponsored by State Representative Bubba Epps would allow local option sales taxes for transportation to include transit and last as long as 20 years. Fractional sales taxes would also be allowed. This extension of transit to the local T-SPLOST, transportation local option sales taxes, has been suggested for many years. It would allow federal new start transit money to flow to projects funded by the T-SPLOSTs. Regional transit study bills are also on the move. SB 6 is the Senate version while HB 160 is the House version.

Energy legislation has already been introduced. HB 205 sponsored by Rep. John Meadows would update the law on drilling for oil and natural gas in Georgia. Shale formations in northwest Georgia are now being leased by Texas operators for exploration so HB 205 is much needed legislation. Coal ash legislation is expected this session as is petroleum product pipeline legislation based on the recommendations of the Petroleum Pipeline Study Commission.

Water and land protection bills are expected to be introduced soon. Amendments to the Shore Protection Act to make clear the delineation of the protected area is coming from the DNR. Clarification of stream buffer protection continues to be a need. Please pay attention and get involved before the Georgia legislators get done at midnight of March 30. 🌲



GEORGIA
WATER
COALITION

Join Us for Capitol Conservation Day!

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Meet at 8:00 a.m., Central Presbyterian Church

201 Washington St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

(Five Points or Georgia State MARTA)

Sign up at www.georgiawater.org



SIERRA
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Getting Ready for the Movement Ahead

The new administration in Washington presents a serious challenge for the environmental movement—but it is a challenge we are ready to rise and face. In this issue we take a look the year ahead for our movement—including specific opportunities for engagement, like the People's Climate March in Washington and activist trainings here at home, as well as what's in store for our three priority conservation campaigns: clean energy, green transportation, and wildlands protection. We have much work ahead of us—we hope you will join us!

Georgia Chapter Activist Training Series Continues Throughout 2017



Join us for our popular activist training workshops led by Sierra Club organizers! The series will repeat three times this year, with one training per month on the second saturday of each month. Options for remote participation will be included.

Training #3: #SquadGoals: Building Your Team. Saturday, March 11, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Training #4: All Hands on Deck: Building Inclusive Movement. Saturday, April 8, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Training #1: Introduction to Activism. Saturday, May 13, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Training #2: Power: How to Build It, How to Use It. Saturday, June 10, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Learn more at www.sierraclub.org/georgia/activist-training-series

March With Us on April 29



We need to stand up and take action to protect everyone and everything we love — during the first 100 hours, the first 100 days, and beyond.

Donald Trump has become the only world leader who doesn't believe in the science of climate change.

Trump and his administration oppose the EPA and the Clean Power Plan. They plan to withdraw from the landmark Paris climate agreement, want to sell off public lands, and intend to expand fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure. He nominated a cabinet full of climate deniers and fossil fuels hacks. They've promised to resurrect the Keystone XL pipeline and ensure the Dakota Access Pipeline is completed. There is no denying it: Donald Trump's election is a threat to the future of our planet, the safety of our communities, and the health of our families.

If the policies Trump proposed on the campaign trail are implemented,

they will destroy our climate, decimate our jobs and livelihoods, and undermine the civil rights and liberties won in many hard-fought battles. Together, we will show that we will not allow climate deniers in Trump's cabinet to threaten the planet and we will not allow attacks on immigrants, communities of color, women, the LGBTQ community, and workers to become the new normal.

On Saturday, April 29, in Washington, D.C., we will come together for one massive march to bring our demands to the streets. We will march for our families. We will march for our air, our water, and our land. We will march for clean energy jobs and climate justice. We will march for our communities and the people we love. And we will be louder and stronger than ever before.

Join your fellow Georgia Sierrans on the bus to D.C. — RSVP at <https://tiny.cc/GAPCM2017>

RAIL Committee Seeks Progress on Transit, EVs

By **Brionté McCorkle**

Our Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee works to reduce dependence on cars and trucks by securing more funding for sustainable transportation choices like mass transit, biking, walking, and electric vehicles. You can learn more about our work at <http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/rail>.

The RAIL Committee's priority issues for 2017 include:

- **Shaping and engaging in MARTA's community outreach** for the successful \$2.5 billion expansion approved by voters this year in Atlanta.
- **Expanding MARTA to Cobb & Gwinnett County** to achieve a fully functional and connected regional transit system.
- **Increasing the number of EVs and chargers in Georgia** through engagement in planning for the \$58 million the state of Georgia will receive from the Volkswagen emission scandal.
- **Launching our "Get on Board Georgia" statewide commuter rail effort** which aims to bring Georgia's downtowns back to life.

RAIL Committee Volunteer Needs

As you know, volunteers are essential to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. We would not be successful without your dedicated and continued involvement.

One way to get involved is to join a team! Teams will meet at least once a month to outline our strategy for each priority issue and begin completing the tasks necessary to move each forward. Team members should commit 5-7 hours per month to campaign work, and we hope to recruit at least three volunteers for each team.

There are also a few open volunteer roles that will help make the committee more effective:

- **RAIL Committee Chair** - Commits approximately 5-10 hours a month and is responsible for being part of recruiting, guiding and leading a team of approximately 3-8 other team members. Helps conduct quarterly RAIL Committee meetings
- **Secretary** - Takes notes during RAIL meetings and sends them to attendees, making note of action items
- **Media Guru** - Scans news for transit/transportation stories that are relevant to our campaigns. Shares articles and other information on RAIL Twitter & Facebook pages.

Contact Brionté at brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org if you are interested.

Smart Energy Campaign to Focus on Coal, Efficiency, SoCo Outreach

The Sierra Club's Smart Energy Solutions Committee has another busy year on tap. Priority issues include the following:

Beyond Coal: In 2017, the Beyond Coal campaign will continue building the movement to retire Georgia's remaining coal plants and work toward achieving our vision of 100% clean energy. Zombie coal plant proposal Plant Washington is clinging to its last vestiges of life after missing construction start deadlines in 2014 and 2016. Should a permit extension request be considered this year, we will be there to make sure the public's response is a resounding "NO!"

On the existing coal front, we will keep up the pressure on Georgia Power and the Public Service Commission to set a retirement schedule and create a transition plan for Plant Hammond and Plant McIntosh. By engaging the local community at the center of the conversation, we anticipate this work becoming a national model for coal-to-clean energy transitions.

Energy Efficiency & Renewables: A stated objective of the Smart Energy Campaign is to replace 100 percent of retired coal capacity with gains in energy efficiency and renewable energy sources—equivalent to 20 percent of Georgia Power's capacity by 2020. In 2017, We will build on the success of our work with the Solarize Decatur-Dekalb Campaign, a bulk purchasing program that began last September. As of January 31, 850 residents and businesses had signed up for evaluations, with 414 kilowatts of residential solar committed and 23.7 kilowatts of commercial solar committed—the equivalent of more than 800,000 lbs of avoided CO2. The campaign's goal is 100 homes and 500 kilowatts—a goal we expect to surpass!

Southern Company Shareholders Resolutions: As a publicly-traded corporation, Southern Company ("SO") is owned by individuals and investment funds around the world. Some, like the Bank of Norway, are considering divesting their portfolio of SO stock due to over-reliance on coal burning. Others, including police & firefighter pension funds, faith-based funds and many others are speaking up as shareholders, in hopes that SO can rapidly clean their energy mix.

The Georgia Sierra Club has traditionally partnered with SO shareholders to advocate a more sustainable future for the company. This year, three resolutions are proposed, calling on SO to (1) Show their business plan for being profitable in a low-carbon economy; (2) Disclose the risks that their "carbon-based assets" pose over the coming years; and (3) Address methane emissions, now that SO has purchased Atlanta Gas Light. These three resolutions must be addressed, and Sierra Club is spreading the word so that concerned investors vote for more transparency and sound planning.

Contact Ian Karra at ian.karra@sierraclub.org if you for more information or if you would like to get more involved.

Cumberland, Cooper Creek Top Wildlands Priorities

By Jessica Morehead and Larry Winslett

The Wildlands & Wildlife Committee is at the heart of Sierra Club's mission to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect. We advocate for responsible management and protection of our public lands and wild forests, and we work to preserve and expand habitats that protect vulnerable wildlife. Not only does this help mitigate climate change, but it also preserves land that provides access to the wilderness experience.

The Georgia Chapter has a history of working to protect our forests so that generations to come can explore, enjoy, and learn how to protect our forests. One such recent victory was the Forest Service's decision on the Upper Warwoman Project. A 20-year battle that began with an appeal by the Southern Environmental Law Center, on behalf of Sierra Club, Georgia Forest Watch, Chattooga Conservancy, and The Wilderness Society, ultimately resulted in an end to proposed road construction and a reduction in logging on national forest land!

As we look back at our successes, continue working on current campaigns, and set our sights on what lies ahead, we are starting off 2017 with a strong group of volunteers ready to achieve new victories! Among our top priorities is our effort to protect Cumberland Island from development and advocate for better management of the nearly 9,000 acres designated as wilderness area. We will also continue to collaborate with the Forest Service, and our partners, as we work to advocate for responsible management and protection of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

Priority Wildlands Issue Updates

Cooper Creek: As many of you may know, southwest of Blairsville lies one of the hidden jewels of the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Cooper Creek area in Union County boasts clear native trout streams, backcountry hiking trails, and magnificent towering forests. It is a favorite destination for locals and recreational users across Georgia, yet the Forest Service feels this area needs to be "improved" and has proposed a massive timber project that would remove 30-80 percent of the trees from more than 2,000 acres. In the proposal, more than 80 percent of the stands in the watershed of Bryant Creek will be cut, threatening one of the best native trout streams in Georgia. Timber harvest activities, including the extensive road system that must be built to harvest timber, will increase soil erosion and raise water temperatures. In addition, 300 acres of commercial logging are proposed in an area that the Forest Service previously designated for dispersed recreation and deemed it "unsuitable for timber production."

This proposal, one of the worst in years from the Forest Service, has been opposed by the Sierra Club, Georgia ForestWatch, and the Southern Environmental Law Center. We continue to critique the project, and we submitted a letter in early November pointing out additional flaws in the agency's analysis of aquatic and soil impacts. We previously developed a much less damaging alternative and reiterated our request for the Forest Service to give it real consideration in lieu of its current proposal. We will be sure to keep our members updated on project developments moving forward.

Cumberland Island: Cumberland Island National Seashore remains a long-standing issue of interest for Sierra Club members. The largest and most biodiverse of Georgia's barrier islands is not only a historically significant island cherished by people across the nation, but also a nesting site for three endangered or threatened species of sea turtles and a migratory stopping point for hundreds of bird species. It is one of our last stretches of wild coastline on a largely undeveloped island.

Advocates have worked tirelessly for decades to protect Cumberland Island, which is now at risk from development. Local planning officials granted a variance that will allow for undeveloped private land to be subdivided and ultimately developed. To protect Cumberland Island, this plan must be stopped (see article, opposite page).

Now is the time to get involved!

We have Actions Teams gearing up to work on each issue. Whether you're on a Sierra Club Outing seeing areas directly affected by development, logging, and climate change, or you're actively engaged in the public process that governs our public lands, there is a way for you to get involved!

We strive for this, and all committees, to be open and inclusive groups that enable all citizens to engage in successful campaigns working to protect our environment. We hope you'll join us!

To stay informed go to <http://bit.ly/2k5webG> and click on "Apply for Membership"

To join the Forest Issues or Cumberland Island Action Team, contact Jessica Morehead, Chapter Coordinator, at jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org

If you're interested in attending the Public Hearing in Woodbine, contact Ted Terry, Chapter Director, at [ted.terry@sierraclub.org](mailto:tad.terry@sierraclub.org)

Cumberland Island Faces New Development Threat

By Matt Smith

Georgia's Cumberland Island National Seashore is one of the Atlantic Coast's last wild spaces—an 18-mile-long stretch of Spanish-moss-draped oak forests and salt marshes, where wild horses and sea turtles share beaches and trails with tourists.

Once a playground for Gilded Age tycoons, most of the island has been a federal preserve since the 1970s. But about 1,000 of the island's 36,000-plus acres remains privately owned—and a plan to subdivide one of those last private parcels has dismayed many who treasure the island, both nearby residents and visitors from far away.

"I was shocked when I heard this was happening and can't believe it's even being considered," Atlanta resident Kathryn Brannon wrote in one of nearly 1,000 public comments to officials in Camden County, which must approve the proposal.

The county's zoning board approved the request in December despite hundreds of letters of opposition. Local residents and conservation groups have appealed that decision, and the Camden County Commission is scheduled to decide the appeal sometime in February, said Eric Landon, the county's planning chief.

The property at issue is owned by a family corporation created by heirs of Coca-Cola founder Asa G. Candler. They want to divide their 87-acre parcel on the south end of the island into 10 separate lots, allowing family members to build their own homes. Their attorney, Stephen Kinney, said the plan isn't to sell the land: "They intend to keep it within their family," Kinney told *Sierra*.

In follow-up emails, Kinney wrote, "My clients respect the viewpoints of all, even though their opinions may differ."



The owners "share with them a deep respect and love for the beauty and heritage of Cumberland."

Kinney later elaborated via email, "My clients will follow all county zoning guidelines with respect to what may be built on the property. My clients have no intention of selling the property to other private individuals or the government, now or in the future."

The island was home to a Spanish mission in the 1600s, British colonial forts in the 1700s and cotton plantations in the 1800s. By the early 20th century, most of the island was owned by the heirs of steel baron Andrew Carnegie, along with the Candler family and a few Rockefellers here and there.

The ruins of the Carnegie family's massive Dungeness mansion, which burned in 1959, are a popular tourist draw today. The north end is home to the First African Baptist Church, an 1890s-era chapel where John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette got married in 1996.

The National Park Service began taking an interest in the island in the 1950s, eventually creating the national seashore in 1972—thanks, in part, to

leadership from David Brower, the first executive director of the Sierra Club. In the decades since, it's become treasured by Georgians like Rob Cleveland, who now lives in the Atlanta area.

"Ever since I was a small child, going to St. Mary's and catching the ferry to Cumberland Island has been a family trip," said Cleveland, who signed a petition opposing the subdivision plans. "There weren't any cars. There weren't any roads. There were wild horses and armadillos—a kind of wildness and wilderness that was different than you might expect, and the ruins of the Carnegie mansion made it more interesting."

"Cumberland Island is where people can walk out on a beach and look for three miles in both directions and just see people walking on a beach, and in fairly low numbers," said Jim Richardson, a retired University of Georgia zoologist who studied loggerhead turtles along the state's barrier islands for decades.

Those turtle populations have rebounded, and a few more homes on Cumberland Island aren't likely to re-

Continued on next page

Conservation

Continued from previous page

verse that trend, Richardson said. But he said the subdivision proposal has become “a line in the sand” for people who want to keep open space protected.

“I think it’s a challenge to precedent. It’s a challenge to land management. It’s a challenge to conservation of open lands,” Richardson said.

The parcel at issue is near the south end of the island, about a mile from the dock where most visitors land via a twice-daily ferry. There are no bridges connecting Cumberland to the mainland and no paved roads. Since county zoning rules require paved roads for access to a subdivision, the family needs commissioners to waive that rule before they can split up the land.

Many of the people objecting to the proposal fear that allowing more homes will undercut the sense of splendid isolation visitors get.

“When the wilds are lost, they are lost forever,” North Carolina resident Cynthia Camilleri added. “Cumberland Island is unique in its unspoiled state. Opening up opportunities for a few people to benefit will just be the thin edge of the wedge.”

Not everyone expressed opposition. Matt Ellis, of nearby Woodbine, Georgia, said he has been to houses on the island “and from the main road, you would not hardly know anything was down there.”

“I know the island is a treasure, but I believe that when someone owns the land they should be able to use it as they wish,” he wrote. “I grow tired of the environmental crowd trying to control everyone’s lives. If a few more houses are built on the island, I doubt anyone would know who visits the island and walks around it on foot.”

But Rob Cleveland countered that adding houses on the southern end of the island, near the island’s campground, “would change the experience.”

“If you’re walking down by Dungeness and you’re looking out over the marsh, are you going to be able to see houses now? I don’t know. That would be my second concern, after just setting a bad precedent.”

The Southeast Environmental Law Center appealed the plans on behalf of two environmental groups: St. Mary’s Earthkeepers, based across the channel from Cumberland, and the National Parks Conservation Association. Another group of Camden County residents has filed a separate appeal.

“Cumberland Island is truly the crown jewel of Georgia’s barrier island system, and consequently should not be treated like any other run of the mill property,” SELC lawyer Bill Sapp said in a statement announcing the appeal. “We would welcome the opportunity to work with all parties at the table to seek a long-term solution, with the goal of protecting the natural beauty and historic character for which the Cumberland Island National Seashore is known and beloved.” 🌲

Membership

Election Brings Changes to Chapter ExCom



Congratulations to **William Anderson**, **Seth Gunning** and **William Tomlin** (pictured above, l-r), who were elected as new at-large members of the Georgia Chapter Executive Committee and seated in November. The November meeting also saw the re-election of **David Emory** and **Mark Woodall** as Chapter Chair and Vice Chair for Conservation, respectively, as well as the election of **Jeff Schoenberg** as Vice Chair for Administration.

We also recognize **Jennifer Kaduck**, **Thomas Neff**, and **Diane Shearer** who are stepping down as elected members. (Neff will continue to serve as Chapter treasurer.) Thank you for your service to the Georgia Sierra Club!

A graphic featuring a large green tree silhouette. The EarthShare Georgia logo is at the top, with the tagline "One environment. One simple way to care for it." Below the logo, the text reads: "Working for the day when our Air, Land and Water are clean, abundant and healthy." Further down, it says: "Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee giving campaign today!" At the bottom, the phone number 404.873.3173 and the website www.earthsharega.org are listed.

EarthShare
Georgia

One environment.
One simple way to care for it.

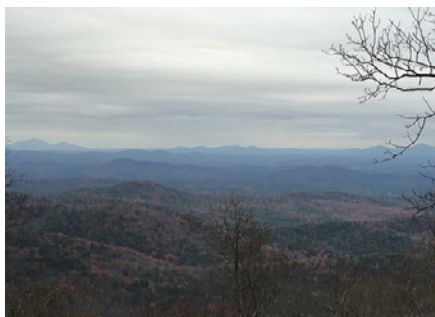
**Working for the day
when our Air, Land
and Water are clean,
abundant and healthy.**

Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee
giving campaign today!

404.873.3173 www.earthsharega.org

Membership

Help Us Plan Our 2017 Fall Gathering



It's time for some serious planning and preparation for our bi-annual **Chapter Membership Fall Gathering**. As you may know, this traditional event draws Sierra Club members, families, and friends from around the state and region for a weekend of recreation, outings, workshops, keynote speakers, celebration, and volunteer recognition. We welcome all ages and often host special guests.

Typically we alternate retreat locations between north and south Georgia.

After our very successful gathering near Cumberland Island in 2015, we are tentatively scheduled to head to the north Georgia mountains in October 2017, and we are in the process of securing a location (look for details in the next issue of the *Georgia Sierran*).

Remember that 2017 also marks the 125th Anniversary Year for the national Sierra Club so we will have additional incentive to also celebrate the many noteworthy accomplishments of the Georgia Chapter. Please make plans to join us!

Do you know of any location/venue ideas we should consider? We need your input ASAP. Can you assist our Retreat Planning Committee with its work? Choose small or larger tasks. Please contact Jessica Morehead in the chapter office (jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org or 404-607-1262 x221).



Cut Clear Cutting

Americans deserve clean air and water, healthy forests and a sustainable economy. In California alone, over a million acres of forested land are scheduled for clear-cut type logging. Clearcutting and loss of natural forests is harming water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism throughout the nation. Help the Sierra Club fight to replace clear cutting with sustainable logging.

Make the Cut & JOIN Sierra Club

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____ / ____
Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!



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Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

LaGrange Group



Our strong leadership team continues to grow and flourish! Key contributors include Ellen Parkhurst, Travis Towns, Ken Fiske, Sim Blitch, Judy Lawrence, Paula Darden, Sam and Laura Breyfogle, Jake Kryziak, Eric Simpson, Mary Lou Dabbs, Mary Drake, Dr. Bill Fackler and Joanna Baxter. We welcome new team members Emily Jones, Kilsup Van Lieu and Kathryn Scholl. Thank you to outgoing leaders Katherine Adams and Andrea Richard.

2016 was celebrated by offering a party with live jazz, candlelight, delicious food and fine fellowship among friends. 2017 was kicked off with a live birds of prey program led by Dale Arrowood with Winged Ambassadors. Our live animal programs bring in a lot of families and fun for the community. Using our public library as a venue for this event was convenient for all.

The LaGrange Group invites all Sierrans from Troup County and surrounding counties to “fill their cup” by participating in outings, meetings, projects and marches with like-minded nature lovers and protectors. Contact either Laura Breyfogle (breyfoglel@gmail.com) or Travis Towns (fttravist@aol.com) to get added to our list serve and find out about upcoming LaGrange Group events.

- Laura Breyfogle

Upcoming Meeting & Events

Feb. 21, 6:00 - 8:00pm: General meeting with Sierra Club lobbyist Neill Herring and Georgia Chapter legislative chair Mark Woodall updating us on environmental bills pending in the Georgia legislature and how we can contact our legislators most effectively. Location of meeting will be LaGrange Memorial Library, 115 Alford St. LaGrange 30240.

March 21, 6:00 - 8:00pm: General meeting with speaker Harriet Langford of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation sharing with us a project called “The Ray”, a 16 mile stretch of I-85 in Troup County currently being developed to be one of the most environmentally sustainable lengths of highway in the U.S. Meeting location will be Dickson Assembly Room at Lagrange College. Contact Laura Breyfogle at breyfoglel@gmail.com if you need parking instructions.

April 18, 6:00 - 8:00pm: General meeting with speaker Malcolm Hodges from The Nature Conservancy will speak on “Trends in Conservation Management in Georgia, 2017.” His program will include ways The Nature Conservancy conserves and manages land and rare species in Georgia, and how threats to them are changing. Topics will include development, climate resilience, rare species reintroduction, ex-situ safeguarding, fire and invasive species. Meeting location will be St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 207 N. Greenwood St., LaGrange 30240.

May 16, 6:00 - 8:00pm: General Meeting with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper sharing their Neighborhood Water Watch program with opportunities to volunteer, as well as success of the West Point Lake Floating Classroom and future programs for school groups as well general public. Meeting location will be St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, 207 N. Greenwood St., LaGrange 30240.

Greater Gwinnett Group

A new year, a new Administration. What are we to do? While there is a tendency to say that nothing we do will matter, fighting for what we believe is important. The Gwinnett Group began the new year with a letter writing and calling campaign to our senators to not support the nomination of Scott Pruitt. Each of our future meetings we will write to our legislators of our Congressional representatives in support of a n environmental issue. Ted Terry and Jessica Morehead who discussed our Chapter’s successes in 2016 and our 2017 goals headlined our January meeting. Our Stream Monitoring program remains strong with monthly events at Gwinnett Greenway the Saturday following the third Thursday of each month. Our February meeting will host Neil Herring

and Mark Woodall who will bring their formative legislative experience to an informative an entertaining evening of environmental Georgia as seen from “under the dome”.

As we are now in President Trump’s first 100 days, it is vital that everyone who values clean air and water and believe that global warming does exist and is caused by human activities contact their legislators and Congressional representatives to support people and legislation that support environmental causes. The Gwinnett group has taken on this important cause and hope that each person who is concerned with these causes will joining us in voicing your opinions to our representatives.

- Dan Friedman

Metro Atlanta Group



Given the current political climate in our country and this state, many of us are eager to find ways to move the needle (and even just prevent backward motion of said needle) on protecting the environment for everyone. Perhaps you're new to the movement, or maybe you're a longtime member looking to become more active in Sierra Club. If you live in the metro Atlanta area, why not check out Metro Atlanta Group? Local groups are your connection to the Sierra Club! We can help you discover how to get involved, and at our gatherings you can meet fellow Atlanta-area activists, policy wonks, and outdoors enthusiasts.

Upcoming Meeting Dates, Featured Speakers and Topics

February: "Under the Gold Dome: Legislative Update with Neill Herring and Mark Woodall." Neill Herring, Sierra Club contract lobbyist, and Mark Woodall, chapter legislative chair, are two of our most popular guest speakers (honored in 2015 as "Georgia Environmental Heroes" by GreenLaw). They will discuss key issues and bills in this year's 40-day Georgia legislative session (that started on January 9), and ways you can make a difference. They can answer questions about your legislators! They will also encourage you to join other citizen lobbyists at this year's Capitol Conservation Day on Wednesday, February 15, at the Georgia Capitol.

March: We'll hear from the organization Georgia Watch about CWIP, the tax through which Georgia Power has been charging customers for years to pay for the over-budget, unnecessary construction of new nuclear reactors.

The Metro Atlanta Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic. Then, we present info on how to take action on important issues. Recently we have been meeting at the Georgia Chapter office, at 743 E. College Ave. Suite B, Decatur, GA, 30030, but the location is subject to change. Please join us at 7pm to socialize and 7:30pm for the program!

Adopt-A-Stream Program

The next monitoring date is Saturday, March 25, at 10-11am for chemical monitoring and 10am-12pm for biological monitoring. For information about chemical monitoring dates, call Larry Kloet at 404 636-7226. For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172. If you are interested in helping with chemical monitoring in February, please contact Larry Kloet.

Get Involved!

■ What local environmental issues should we work on together? Have ideas for outings or future featured speakers? Contact executive committee member Nina at nddutton@gmail.com.

■ We're looking for a treasurer! Interested? Contact Nina at the email address above.

Reach out and keep up with what's new!

■ Get the latest info on local events and action opportunities at our webpage or on our Facebook page (facebook.com/sierraclubATL).

■ Find petitions and events for national and local Sierra Club campaigns at AddUp.org (which is searchable by zip code).

*For more information, directions,
updates and new events, please see:*

<http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/>

About Georgia Sierran

Articles: Send materials to: gasierran@gmail.com. Maximum word length: 750 words with one photo. Please include high-resolution digital photos (200 dpi) with your story.

Moving? Send address changes to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968. Send changes by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

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Centennial Group



Did you know the Centennial Group turns 25 years old this year? Originally, Cobb/Cherokee-area Sierra volunteers were members of the Metro Atlanta Group (MAG) but their numbers, capacity, and issues grew enough to support a separate group. In 1992 (the same year the national Sierra Club turned 100 and celebrated its “Centennial”), those members were incorporated as a group in the Georgia Chapter and chose Centennial as their group name. Meetings were held for many years at the Episcopal Church of St. Peter & St. Paul on Johnson Ferry Road in Marietta. Look for a special celebration this year and hopefully a recap of major highlights and accomplishments. Please let us know if you enjoy writing stories and can help us.

2015 Group Awards



Many folks helped us wrap up a successful 2016 with several outings and a December Holiday Potluck Party and Auction; and we began a very busy 2017 with our interactive January meeting on Grassroots Environmental Goals and Action.

Executive Committee Changes

Welcome to two new Centennial Excom members, **Andrea Searles** and **Daniel White**. They join **Linda Bell**, **Kaye Klapper**, and **Lynn Walston**. Thanks to retiring excom leaders, **Gigi Burke** (who continues to support special projects) and **Angelica Netterville** (who has relocated to Atlanta and the MAG). We are happy that Angie will continue leading outings and “Adopt-A-Mile” cleanups of our adopted “Rushway”

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday, March 2, 7 pm: “Hiking Our National Parks’ Most Famous Trails: Highlights & Hiking Tips”. Lee Graham, chapter outings leader and group outings chair, recounts previous hikes in Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain, Grand Teton, Yosemite, Glacier, and Bryce Canyon National Parks and offers advice about hiking easy and hard trails.

Outings and Events



Saturday, March 11 & Saturday March 18: Explore Cobb County’s Civil War Shoupade Park in Vinings and the adjacent Silver Comet Trail (Smyrna, Mableton), while learning about the Riverline Historic Area’s NPU 6-mile master plan. With historian Michael Shaffer and Centennial leader Roberta Cook. For more info, contact Roberta: robertajo.cook@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 11: Adopt-A-Mile cleanup on Lower Roswell Road followed by lunch at nearby restaurant. Contact Angie Netterville: ecoangie@yahoo.com.

Parks & Greenspace Campaign



Cobb Parks Coalition (CPC) and Centennial volunteers continue our campaign to secure \$24.7 million approved by Cobb Commissioners for purchase of greenspace for parks are bearing fruit, but it is still essential to continue the pressure to secure additional \$15.3 million. Join the campaign @ CobbParksCoalition.org.

Savannah River Group

Building a Clean Energy Future at Fort Gordon

Of all the government facilities, the Department of Defense is the greatest energy consumer and the Army uses the majority, according to Randall Robinson, Principal Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Army Installations, Energy and Environment.

As part of an Army commitment to secure one gigawatt of renewable energy and sustainability at Army installations by 2025, the project to install 137,520 solar panels at Fort Gordon began in 2015 and covers 270 acres. The solar panels are financed, owned, operated and maintained by Georgia Power and they have signed a 35-year easement for the Fort Gordon property where the solar panels sit.

Although the solar panels have been in use since early October 2016, an official ribbon-cutting celebration of the project was held on Nov. 16, 2016. In addition to officials from Georgia Power, Fort Gordon and State of Georgia, our own Sam Booher, Co-Chair, was invited as a guest of Georgia Power to attend. He was interviewed by Channel 12 which was broadcast that same evening on both channels 12 and 26.

The Fort Gordon project is the largest solar project in the Army to date, providing 30 megawatts of renewable energy, or enough to power 4,300 homes per year.

Per the article about the ribbon-cutting event in the Augusta Chronicle, dated Nov. 16, 2016, Kenneth Coleman, Georgia Power Senior Vice President of Marketing, stated, "Solar will continue to grow and thrive in Georgia."

- Linda McBurney

Get Involved with Atlanta Inspiring Connections Outdoors



You can't imagine how much you will enjoy getting involved with Atlanta Inspiring Connections Outdoors (Atlanta ICO), the local chapter of a Sierra Club youth outings program. The ICO provides opportunities for greater Atlanta area youth to explore, enjoy and preserve nature. You get to enjoy the outdoors and help youth people discover the beauty of wild places, too. The outings include hikes, camp-outs, backpacking trips, kayaking, volunteer service outings and other fun activities. Atlanta ICO leaders and volunteers team with local youth groups to plan, arrange, and conduct the outings in Georgia and nearby states. Recent partners have been the Boys and Girls Club of America, Clarkston High School, Dresden Tutoring Group and the International Rescue Committee.

Check out our web site (www.sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta-ico) with links to our blog and Facebook pages for the latest details on our adventures. Send an email to atlantaico@gmail.com to be put on the email newsletter list for the latest information on how you can get involved.

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

LORI SULLIVAN Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612

(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
sierraclubplanning.org



Chapter Contacts

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Officers & Chairs

Conservation Chair: Larry Winslett,
winfog@windstream.net

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Legislative Chair: Mark Woodall,
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Litigation Chair: *vacant*

Membership Chair: *vacant*

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sammypadgett@comcast.net

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
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Webmaster: *vacant*

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• **Marine Species/Habitat:** Karen Graine,
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• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,
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• **Savannah Port:** Steve Willis,
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Factory Farms: *vacant*

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Hager, bhager@mindspring.com

Population: Todd Daniel,
todddan@mac.com

Recycling: *vacant*

Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL):
*Contact Brionte McCorkle at 404-607-1262 x232 or
brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org for details*

Smart Energy Solutions:

Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net and
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office

• **Beyond Coal:** Ian Karra,
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

• **Media Outreach:** Ian Karra,
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

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

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

• **Southern Company:** Sam Collier,
sam.collier3@gmail.com

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

Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream:

Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.net

Wildlands and Wildlife:

*Contact Jessica Morehead, 404-607-1262 x221,
jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org for details.*

• **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:**

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• **Cumberland Island:** Eric Meyer,
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• **Endangered Species:** Larry Winslett,
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• **National Forests:** Tom MacMillan,
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• **Rivers and Wetlands:** Larry Winslett,
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• **State Lands/Georgia DNR:** John Eberhart,
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National Staff

Beyond Coal Organizing Representative:

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ian.karra@sierraclub.org

Southeast Military Veterans & Outdoors

Coordinator: Lornett Vestal, 404-607-1262 x222,
lornett.vestal@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.

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting
will be Saturday, March 18 at the Chapter office
in Decatur. Meetings are open to the member-
ship. For more information, call the Chapter office
at 404-607-1262 x221.

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://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/get-involved>.

Centennial Group

Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton

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

Outings Chair: Lee Graham, leegrah3@gmail.com, 404-202-9065

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions contact Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Karen Grainey, karengrainey@bellsouth.net

Outings Chair: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com

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

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett County

Chair: Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

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

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

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

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Sim Blitch, simblitch@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday; 6:30 p.m. welcome and refreshments, 7 p.m. 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: Konrad Hayashi, rainingatl@gmail.com

Co-Chair: Denise LaSonde, deniselasonde@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy, mcmarty@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Decatur Public Library, 215 Sycamore St.

Savannah River Group

Serving Augusta & surrounding areas

Co-Chair: Linda McBurney, mmscb@outlook.com

Co-Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Frank Carl, frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair: Cathy Black, sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

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

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Forsyth County

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Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston_f@mercer.edu

North Georgia

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

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404-607-1262 • FAX: 404-876-5260
georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

office: Our office is an easy 3-4 minute walk from the MARTA Avondale station (E7). We encourage you to take MARTA when possible. Exit the MARTA station towards the SOUTH PARKING LOT, located on the East College Ave. side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams Street. Cross over Sams Street and the office is the building located right behind the convenience store. The office is the second door from Sams Street – Suite B.

Stay Informed!

SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/>
GA Chapter Outings:
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings/>

EMAIL LISTS

Subscribe to a Georgia Chapter email list. Just send an email to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:
SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)
GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)
GA-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

Subscribe to the Smart Energy Solutions listserve at:
gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:
http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup

Visit the Georgia Chapter web page and click on "Local Groups" for info on local groups' email lists.

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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Outings & Events

Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. To find out more or to register for an outing, please visit our outings calendar at:

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

Upcoming Chapter and Group Outings

Saturday, February 18th, 2017: *Indoor Climbing and Belaying Introduction*, Grovetown. Presented by Savannah River Group, led by Richard Dillenbeck.

Friday, February 24th to Saturday, February 25th: *Len Foote Hike Inn Overnight Hike*. Presented by Savannah River Group, led by Cathy Black.

Saturday, February 25: *Winter Trails to Warm Lodges: Amicalola Lodge to Hike Inn lodge*. Presented by Centennial Group, led by Lee Graham.

Saturday, March 4th: *Sierra Club Outing Leader Training*, REI Store, Kennesaw. Led by Lee Graham.

Saturday, March 25th: *James Edmonds Trail (JET) Day Hike*, Black Mountain State Park. Presented by the Georgia Chapter, led by Jake Hardison Jr.

Throughout April: The Chapter's annual *John Muir Outings* series returns with a series outings to help raise awareness of our priority conservation campaigns. For details, please visit georgia.sierraclub.org/johnmuiroutings.

Upcoming Sierra Club Military Outdoors Activities

The goal of the of Sierra Club's Military Outdoors program (SCMO) is to ensure that service members, veterans, and their families have the skills, exposure, and knowledge to access and enjoy the outdoors.

For questions or to RSVP for any of the following, please visit contact Lornett Vestal at lornett.vestal@sierraclub.org, or call (678) 436-8495

March 24th - 26th: *Outing Leader Training*. Camp Wesley Woods, Townsend, TN

March 26th - 31st: *River Leaders: Military & Veteran Raft Guide School*, Bryson City, NC

April 1st - 2nd: *Wilderness First Aid Training*

May 18th - 21st: *Memorial Day Chattooga River Run*, Chattooga Sounds Camp, Long Creek, SC

