

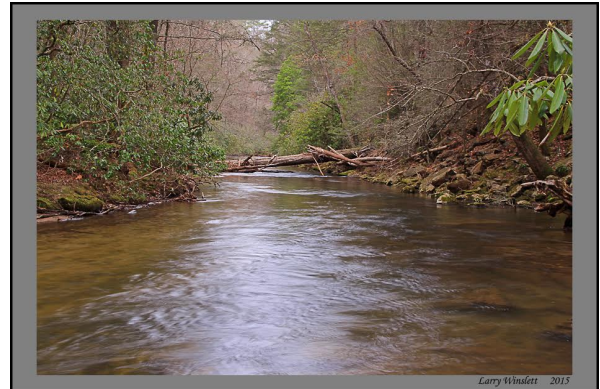


Georgia Chapter

Footnotes Issue #104: August 7th, 2015

Protecting Georgia's Chattahoochee National Forest

In 2005, we began talking with the US Forest Service about their proposed **Upper Warwoman Watershed Project**, a proposed thinning of major sections of forest along with road-building in the Chattooga District in Rabun County. This week marked the end of the long process and we are happy to report that the project, as finalized, will be much less destructive than originally proposed.



Thanks to all Georgia Sierrans who submitted comments earlier this year - the Forest Service listened!

The part of the proposal we objected most strenuously was a three mile road near Tuckaluge Creek, which would have cost nearly \$1 million and would have significantly increased the amount of silt entering the creek, which is home to native Brook trout. Building of this road would have also disqualified this area from roadless protection and would have made the creation of the Windy Gap Roadless Area impossible. In a significant victory for taxpayers, trout fishers, tree huggers and common sense, this road was dropped from the project.

Other improvements we secured were a reduction in acres of timber cutting from 1200 to 1000, including a larger balance of the logging not to be done as non-commercial logging, meaning that instead of hauled out and milled, the trees on 330 of those acres will decompose on site, and the nutrients from their decay will remain in the ecosystem.

Finally, several miles of roads will be permanently gated and a mile of road will be decommissioned, adding to the amount of habitat in the area.

The Georgia Chapter's Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, along with Georgia Forest Watch and the SELC, will continue working with the Forest Service to help ensure the health of our forests is maintained. These three partners are currently working on scaling back the Cooper Creek project, the Forest Service's proposed thinning in Union County near Duncan Ridge. [Click here to learn more about to Wildlands & Wildlife Committee's work and to get involved!](#)

Georgia's Clean Power Celebration



On Monday, President Obama and the EPA finalized the Clean Power Plan, a historic step to fight climate disruption. The proposed Clean Power Plan will reduce carbon emissions at power plants and increase development of clean energy.

On Wednesday, over 100 activists from the Georgia Sierra Club and groups such as Georgia Interfaith Power and Light, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and Environment Georgia came together to show strong grassroots support of this historic climate action. Guest Speakers Laura Turner Sydel, international environmental advocate and eco-living expert; Mikayla Wiseman, young asthma sufferer and advocate for cleaner air; Reverend William E. Flippin, Jr., Third Vice President for the Georgia NAACP; and the Rev. Dr. Gerald Durley, pastor and longtime speaker for civil and human rights issues all joined to fire up the crowd in support of the new rules and made strong statements on ramping up clean power, decreasing reliance on coal, decreasing air pollution, and environmental justice!

[Click here to view photos from the rally!](#)

Sierra Club Meetings

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, August 17, 7:00 p.m.
Contact William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com

RAIL Committee, Monday, August 24, 7:00 p.m.
Contact Colleen Kiernan, colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

Smart Energy Solutions, Monday, September 7, 7:00 p.m.
Contact Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com

Don't live in Atlanta? Check out our [Local Groups](#).

Other Events



August 8th - Sierra Club 101 - You joined the Sierra Club to help protect the environment -- now what? Come learn about the Sierra Club and how to get involved in our local efforts. Open to members and non-members alike--bring a friend! [Please register here](#) so we can bring enough refreshments for everyone.

August 12th - Atlanta Green Drinks - To celebrate August's Atlanta Green Drinks, we invite you to enjoy free beer with us at Trees Atlanta's beautiful Kendeda Center in Reynoldstown. Their amazing staff & volunteers have worked tirelessly since 1985 protecting Atlanta's forests, replacing lost trees and creating new greenspace, planting over 100,000 new shade trees in city right-of-ways, front yards, parks, parking lots, schools, neighborhoods, multi-family housing units, public facilities, places of worship, industrial parks, transportation corridors, and along the PATH400 & Atlanta BeltLine. So let's show them some love! All green folks are welcome! [Click here to register.](#)



August 8 & 14th - NAACP Journey for Justice - The Sierra Club will join the NAACP's Journey for Justice, a series of on the ground actions, rallies, and teach-ins during an 860-mile march from Selma, AL to Washington DC that will dramatize the need for State-level redress and reform in the areas of criminal justice, public education, labor rights, and voting rights. The Georgia Leg of the march will make stops in LaGrange, Atlanta and Athens. Please save the date August 14th to participate in the rally in Atlanta, and look for more details from us soon! [To learn more about the Journey for Justice, click here.](#)

August 22 & November 14th - Georgia River Network Hidden Gems Paddle - Save the date for excursions to rediscover some of the hidden gems on Georgia's waterways. Each one-day river trip includes lunch and presentations along the route, ranging from natural history and water quality testing to cultural history and river cleanups. On Aug 22: South River - From Urban Wasteland to Wet & Wild Oasis - Go with the flow and explore this nearly forgotten beauty. On Nov 14: Ochlockonee River - Tea-Stained Waters, Cypress Knees & Rich Wildlife Diversity - Discover this majestic river in the Red Hills of Southwest Georgia. [Click here to register.](#)



September 24th - GreenLaw Environmental Heroes Celebration - Save the date for GreenLaw's Environmental Heroes Celebration, an evening dedicated to honoring environmental heroes who have made significant contributions to defending Georgia's public health and natural resources. This year, the Georgia Sierra Club Lobbyist team of Neill Herring and Mark Woodall will be honored. [Click here to register.](#)



REGISTRATION OPEN! October 23 to 25th - 2015 Georgia Chapter Retreat -

The Georgia Chapter's bi-annual gathering will take place at Crooked River State Park in St. Mary's, GA. Join us and experience a weekend of fun, adventure and learning with your fellow Sierra Club volunteers and leaders from all over Georgia. In addition to several planned hikes, Sierrans will participate in workshops, including Intro to Activism Training and Backpacking 101. The Chapter has also arranged for an exclusive visit to Cumberland Island, Georgia's largest and southernmost barrier island! On Saturday evening, we will gather for a special Awards Banquet to recognize our volunteer leaders, with Sierra Club President Aaron Mair and Author Janisse Ray joining us as our amazing Keynote Speakers! [Click here for more information and to register!](#)

[Looking for more? Check out our Georgia Sierra Club Meetup Group for even more events!](#)

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