



Footnotes Issue #115: February 13, 2016

## 2016 Capitol Conservation Day



The Georgia Chapter is a proud member of the Georgia Water Coalition (GWC), a coalition of over 200 organizations whose mission is to protect and care for Georgia's Water resources. Each year, GWC tracks bills during the legislative session and organizes Capitol Conservation Day, an opportunity for everyone to come to the Georgia State Capitol and meet with their legislators about specific bills.

This year, Capitol Conservation Day lobbying efforts will focus on [Senate Bill 36](#), a bill that would protect Georgia's pristine, underground water supplies from contamination. These underground water supplies support local economies by irrigating crops, running industries, and providing drinking water for residential homes and businesses. Without SB 36, clean water is at risk because current laws and regulations do not provide enough protections for the essential groundwater hundreds of thousands of people, industries, and agriculture rely on.

[Join us at the Capitol on Wednesday, February 17th for Capitol Conservation Day!](#)

SB 36 was first introduced last year by Senator William Ligon (R), District 3. The bill started out as a mechanism to restore the moratorium on the use of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in 11 counties of the coastal plain that are highly dependent on the Floridan Aquifer for water supply. SB 36 was approved by the State Senate on the 30th Day of the 2015 session and moved to the House of Representatives for approval. After being assigned to the House Natural Resources & Environment Committee, the legislation was put on hold when the committee Chair, Representative Lynn Smith (R), District 70, introduced a resolution creating a study committee on coastal aquifers.

Now, SB 36 is up for consideration once more by the same committee. Unfortunately, they are avoiding the bill. Instead of a public hearing on SB 36, the committee approved House Resolution 1198, which does not sufficiently protect the health and safety of wellwater or property rights of Georgians. The resolution does not have the force that comes with a law and thus doesn't compel the regulatory agency to actually do anything. After comparing the resolution with SB 36, you will find that it does not specifically lay out the interest in property rights in protecting groundwater and is narrowly constrained to one specific threat to groundwater: aquifer storage and recovery. There are many other types of contamination that threaten Georgia's groundwater-in Cairo, Waycross and Juliette-and SB 36 will address threats such as these.

[Register now for Capitol Conservation Day and join us in ensuring the passage of SB 36!](#)

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## **Save Elba Island: Stop the Liquefied Natural Gas Export Facility**





**Take Action!**

## Sierra Club Meetings

**Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, February 15, 7 p.m.**

Contact [William Tomlin](#)

**RAIL Committee, Monday, February 22, 7 p.m.**

Contact [Brionté McCorkle](#)

**Smart Energy Solutions Committee, Monday, March 7, 7 p.m.**

Contact [Ian Karra](#)

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

## Upcoming Events



### **February 23rd - Women In Solar Energy Forum -**

The Georgia Solar Energy Association, in coordination with national leaders for Women in Solar Energy (WISE), will hold a forum on Women in Solar from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 5 Seasons Brewing Company, 1000 Marietta St., NW, Atlanta. Part of a national celebration of the contributions women are making in the growing U.S. solar industry, Georgia's WISE event will feature women who are moving Georgia's solar industry forward. [Click here to register >>](#)



### **March 5th - Save the Date! Introduction to Activism Training -**

Join us for a workshop led by Sierra Club organizers. Participants will engage in discussion and activities on power, strategy, and movement building. Training participants will leave ready to articulate their personal stake in combating threats to our environment; understand the influence of big, organized money and how people can come together to build a just, sustainable society; and identify as members of the environmental movement. For questions, email [brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org](mailto:brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org)



**March 5th - Basic 101 Trail Maintenance** - Local Sierra Club volunteers have taken on maintaining the Broad River Trail near the city of Toccoa in north Georgia. They are calling for others to join them by first attending a full-day Basic 101 Trail Maintenance Course held by the U.S. Forest Service. This course is for those who want to learn about trail maintenance, and who wish to pursue crew leader certification with USFS in the future. If interested, please respond with your name, address, email and phone number to Mirza Balic at [mirza.balic@georgia.sierraclub.org](mailto:mirza.balic@georgia.sierraclub.org)

*Looking for more? Check out our [Meetup Group](#) for even more events! Did you miss an issue of Footnotes? You can view past issues in our online archive by [clicking here](#).*

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## Help Support Our Work, Donate Today!



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## Connect With Us



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