



Footnotes Issue #116: February 26, 2016

Change is in the Air at the Georgia Chapter!



First, we are bidding a fond but reluctant farewell to Chapter Director **Colleen Kiernan**, whose last day with the Georgia Chapter is April 1st. "The mountains are calling and I must go," Colleen said. She's heading to Northern California for some well-earned R&R and will return to Atlanta in May to begin her next adventure.

Since joining as Director in 2010, Colleen has led the Chapter through one of the most successful periods in our history. Victories on clean energy include Cobb EMC's withdrawal from the Plant Washington coal project, the cancellation of the proposed Longleaf coal plant after an 11-year battle, and commitments from Georgia Power to retire a quarter of its coal fleet and add over 1 gigawatt in renewables. On the transportation front, Colleen led the Chapter's successful engagement around the 2012 T-SPLOST, followed by a historic victory on transit in 2014 as Clayton County voted overwhelmingly to join MARTA.

While Colleen leaves very big shoes to fill, the Georgia Chapter has much on its plate for 2016, and **we are now actively looking for our next Director!** If you think you have what it takes to lead the state's largest grassroots environmental organization, [follow this link](#) to learn more. The application will open for the public on March 2nd.

In other staffing news, our amazing Volunteer Coordinator, **Yeou-Rong Jih**, is now hard at work in the City of Atlanta's Sustainability Office. To replace her, **we will be hiring a Chapter Coordinator**, who will serve as our office manager and point

person on all things behind-the-scenes. If that sounds like your cup of tea, [find out the details here](#). The application will open for the public on March 1st.

Josh Hanthorn, who served as our Wildlands & Wildlife Coordinator from last May-December through a program called [The Mission Continues](#) now has a full-time, permanent position with [Defenders of Wildlife](#) in Sacramento, CA. We miss him!

Please help us congratulate **Brionté McCorkle** on her promotion to Assistant Chapter Director! In addition to her responsibilities with our transportation and communications work, Brionté will be taking on new responsibility for our political and legislative work as well as taking the lead on hiring our new Chapter Coordinator. We are continually impressed with Brionté's positive attitude, poise under pressure, and ability to make our communications look pretty.

Ian Karra, Georgia Beyond Coal Organizer, is going to keep being awesome, building power and entertaining us with an endless supply of situation-appropriate gifs.

We also welcome **Erin Glynn** back to our team as a consultant! A former Georgia Beyond Coal Organizer herself, now armed with a Juris Doctor, she will be working down at the Public Service Commission on improving Georgia Power's Integrated Resource Plan so that it includes a lot less coal and a lot more renewables and efficiency.

Finally, welcome **Lornett Vestal**, who joins our office in a new position of SE Military Veterans & Outdoors Coordinator. He'll be working to develop outings programming and volunteer leaders for veterans and their families in Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida. To find out more about this program, [click here](#), or email him at lornett.vestal@sierraclub.org.

Support MARTA Expansion: Contact your State Senators Today!



We are winning on clean energy. Five years ago the Sierra Club launched Beyond Coal, a campaign to retire one-third of our nation's coal plants by 2020. With your help--and the help of local organizers, lawyers, and partner organizations--200 coal plants altogether are retired or slated to be retired, out of the original 523 we took aim at. Railroad companies across the nation are reporting declining coal shipments as energy companies invest in cleaner, safer technologies like wind and solar. While there is still work to be done, the next frontier in our quest for a more sustainable world is to move us beyond oil.

Transportation consumes more than 70% of the 19 million barrels of oil used daily in the U.S. and is responsible for nearly 30% of all air pollution. Most of that comes from roads congested with cars that have only one passenger, the biggest problem facing the metro Atlanta region. In the past, our leaders have focused on investing heavily in roads to solve our transportation problems while underfunding transit.

[Help us put an end to this road by sending a message to your state senator in support of expanding transit!](#)

MARTA has unveiled a vision that would expand the system northward to Alpharetta, eastward to Stonecrest, and to Emory University. Their \$8 billion proposal would be funded by the half-penny sales tax proposed in [Senate Bill 330](#). If the bill passes, county commissioners in Fulton and DeKalb counties would still have to vote to put a referendum on the ballot to be approved by voters.

No amount of road building will solve our transportation problems. By instead investing in convenient transportation choices like walking, biking, and public transit, we will reduce congestion and reduce our dependence on oil. Now, as our decision makers consider the various transportation funding options before them, it is critical that they hear from you.

[Please send a message to your state Senators asking them to let the voters decide on supporting MARTA's expansion!](#)

Take Action!

Sierra Club Meetings

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

Contact [Ian Karra](#)

Membership Committee, Monday, March 14, 7 p.m.

Contact [Lindsay Crumpton](#)

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee, Monday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Contact [William Tomlin](#)

RAIL Committee, Monday, March 28, 7 p.m.

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

Upcoming Events



February 27th - Fulton County Energy Equity Forum

- Do you want to lower your energy bills? Did you know there are programs to help you save on energy bills? Do you know how your bill is priced and why? Why does Justice matter for energy costs? Did you know there are good-paying Energy jobs? Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority and the Just Energy Circle invite you to learn answers to these questions, and how they can benefit you, your pocketbook, and your loved ones. **RSVP to**

infojustenergy@gmail.com **or 678-948-5323**



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



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

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](#).

Support Our Work, Donate Today!



DONATE



Connect With Us



This email was sent to: **brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org**

This email was sent by the [Sierra Club Georgia Chapter](#)
743 E. College Ave, Suite C Decatur, GA 30030

[Unsubscribe](#) | [View as Web Page](#) | [Tell a Friend](#)