

Having trouble reading our email? [View a web version.](#)



Georgia Chapter

[Georgia Chapter Website](#) [Footnotes Archive](#) [Join](#) [Donate](#) [About Us](#)

Footnotes Issue #99: May 22nd, 2015

Coosa River Paddle to Plant Hammond

On May 16, the Georgia Sierra Club partnered with Coosa River Basin Initiative to guide a dozen members on a 10-mile paddle on the Coosa River. Paddlers ended the scenic trip floating past Plant Hammond, one of Georgia's aging coal-fired power plants in need of major environmental upgrades. Located just outside of Rome, **the plant can draw up to 590 million gallons of water from the Coosa each day.** According to Georgia Power, **Plant Hammond also kills between 30,000-60,000 fish and millions of fish eggs each year**, many from the Coosa's vibrant striped bass population.

[A front page story in the AJC this week](#) highlighted the paddle trip and how the installation of a cooling tower could help ease the Coosa's water woes. A cooling tower at Plant Hammond would reduce water usage to 30 million gallons of water per day—a daily savings of over 500 million gallons—and prevent unnecessary fish kills.



State regulators have been calling on Georgia Power to take this important step for over 10 years. [This February, hundreds of Sierra Club supporters called on the utility and the Environmental Protection Division to end the wait and give the Coosa the cooling tower it deserves.](#) Though the message was loud and clear, Georgia Power and the EPD continue to drag their feet and have failed to cooperate on issuing a new permit that would include this important upgrade.

[Send a message to EPD Water Branch Chief Jac Capp and tell him not to wait any longer to protect the Coosa!](#)

A clean energy future for Georgia has never looked brighter. Unfortunately, Georgia Power and its five remaining coal plants, including Plant Hammond, continue to threaten our state's waterways and wildlife while sending over a billion dollars out of state to pay for the dirty and outdated fuel. Join us in calling on EPD to hold Georgia Power accountable and to keep Georgia's rivers healthy for all to enjoy.

Raising Awareness about Cooper Creek Watershed



We need your help! The US Forest Service has proposed major logging and thinning of biologically rich stands in our Chattahoochee National Forest, which will clear a major portion of what is left of Georgia's wilderness. To help raise awareness about this issue, our Wildlands & Wildlife Committee is recruiting Sierra Club volunteers to engage with our local communities at farmers markets and festivals to inform people of the actions that the US Forest Service has been taking in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Please join us! [Sign up for a two or three hour tabling shift here.](#)

Sierra Club Meetings

RAIL Committee Meeting, Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.
Brionte McCorkle, brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

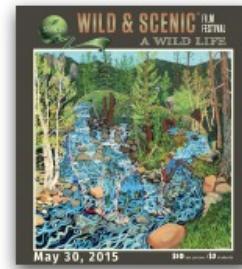
Smart Energy Committee Meeting, Monday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com

Wildlands & Wildlife Committee Meeting, Monday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.
William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com

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

Other Events

May 30th - Wild & Scenic Film Festival - Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, in collaboration with Brenau University and the University of North Georgia, is thrilled to bring the Wild and Scenic® Film Festival to Gainesville GA on Saturday, May 30, 2015. Hosted from our Headwaters Office, the Wild & Scenic® Film Festival inspires people and unites communities to conserve and protect our natural resources. Join us to witness environmental and adventure films that illustrate the Earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet and the work communities are doing to protect the environment. Through these films, Wild & Scenic will inform you about the state of the world and inspire you to take action (scroll down to read more about the films). [Click here to buy tickets.](#)



May 30th - Morning Hike at Sawnee Mountain Preserve - We will be hiking the Indian Seats trail in Sawnee Mountain Preserve. Sawnee Mountain Preserve is located in Forsyth County near Cumming and offers 963 acres of scenic space, hiking trails, and beautiful views of the North Georgia mountains. The mountain is named after a local Cherokee Native American, Sawnee. The Indian Seats on the eastern ridge of Sawnee Mountain were formed by erosion and may have served a ceremonial purpose for Native Americans. Note: No pets allowed at the Preserve. 3.6 miles, 800 feet elevation gain, moderate pace. [Click here for more details.](#)



June 7th - Hemlock Camp Meeting - Save Georgia's Hemlocks is holding our annual Hemlock Camp Meeting on Sunday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the ETC Pavilion on Legion Road in Ellijay. Join us for a gathering of kindred spirits to celebrate and preserve the magnificent hemlock. We will be raising awareness of the hemlock crisis; recognizing our members, volunteers and supporters; and learning about progress in the HWA battle, the latest research and ways we can help. The event will include music by Downtown Roy, food by Poole's barbecue plus your own potluck covered dish to share, a chance to meet a lot of like-minded individuals, and a keynote address by Dr. Richard McDonald, premier researcher in all things hemlock. This event is free of charge, but you must register. Call 404-219-3876 or email reich.peggy@yahoo.com. [Click here for more details!](#)



June 7th - Ride the Silver Comet! - Join us for a leisurely ride east from the Silver Comet Depot past Mile Marker 0 to the Silver Comet Extension and on to South City Kitchen restaurant in Smyrna. We'll arrive at the South City Kitchen in time for brunch after which we'll return to the depot. The Silver Comet is a multi-use trail constructed on an old rail bed and is mostly flat. Our riding speed will be in the 8 to 10 mph range (easy). We'll meet at the Silver Comet Depot (4342 Floyd Rd SW, Mableton, GA 30126) at 9:45 AM and leave promptly at 10:00 AM. As part of the ride we'll stop where "Connect the Comet" is proposing to extend the Silver Comet to the Atlanta Beltline. [Click here to register.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! 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. We will go on hikes, paddle down the river and take

a trip to Cumberland Island! There will also be an opportunity to participate in workshops about the Sierra Club, our history, and the issues we work on. On Saturday evening, we will host an awards banquet to recognize our volunteer leaders. [Click here to register.](#)



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



Interested in reading more?

If you have missed an issue of *Footnotes Online* you can view them in our archive by [clicking here](#). You can also sign up for alerts in order to take action at times when we need decision makers to hear from you. [We need your help!](#)



[Georgia Chapter](#) | 743 E. College Ave., Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030 | P: (404)-607-1262 x-221 | [Tell a friend about us](#)

[Update My Profile](#) | [Manage My Email Preferences](#) | [Update My Interests](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)