



# Savannah River Sierran

NEWS FROM THE SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP, SEPT—OCT 2022

<http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/savannah-river> Vol. 40 # 4

“At a Sierra Club activity you will always find yourself among friends.”



## Saving the Okefenokee

Our Georgia Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is again threatened as a recent court order to cut the Muskogee Nation out of their burial rights around the swamp. It's urgent that you contact your Georgia and National Legislators and tell them you object to mining next to our National Wildlife Refuge.

## Mid Term Election coming 8 Nov, 2022

**Register to vote now. Last day to register is 10 Oct in GA. and 15 Oct in SC.**

To register in GA go to <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>. Follow the prompts to both register and to see your sample ballot. For SC the process is primarily the same at [scvotes.com](http://scvotes.com) to register and to see the upcoming ballot. Another resource is [Ballotpedia.org](http://Ballotpedia.org) where you can look up your ballot and see ballot measures with explanations of those measures. In addition candidates for federal and state races provide some information on their background and can lead to their websites.

**Tim Nelken , Political Chair**

## Meetings for September and October

We offer hybrid monthly meetings where you have the option to join in person or on Zoom. To join in person we meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church at 3501 Walton Way Extension, Augusta 30909. To join on Zoom you must register in advance at the link listed for each meeting. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Our meetings are free and open to the public.

### Tuesday— 20 Sept 6:30-7:30 pm

### SRG Monthly Meeting

“Creating a Climate for Change” - the New Alpha Community Development Corporation. Join us to hear about their work with community economic development, environmental justice, and energy with an emphasis on Environomics – the intersection where environmental issues and community economic development issues meet - from Executive Director Leo Woodberry. Join in person or, to join on Zoom, you must register in advance at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZooduCqqzkiHNCPIEJSpc1mWMm5VjOdvTWq>

### Tuesday— 18 Oct 6:30 –7:30 pm

### SRG Monthly Meeting

Georgia's State Wildlife Action Plan is a statewide strategy to conserve certain native animals and plants and the natural habitats they need before they become rarer or even extinct. Linda May, Outreach Coordinator for Wildlife Conservation with GA's Dept. of Natural Resources, will speak about the Plan and the species of greatest conservation need. Join in person or, to join on Zoom, you must register in advance at :

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUzd-ypqDgiGNIC00fHwsNYj56N5KNJ92\\_v](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUzd-ypqDgiGNIC00fHwsNYj56N5KNJ92_v)

## **Chair's Corner**

Both Georgia Chapter and Savannah River Group elections for their Executive Committees (ExCom) are in November. A candidate must be a Sierra Club member to run for the two-year commitment. If you are interested in running for the Georgia Chapter ExCom, contact Dan Friedman (404-610-5770) or Will Bryan (803-206-3133).

The *Savannah River Group (SRG)* ExCom manages the activities and affairs of our group. We are looking for candidates for the three vacancies in our Group November elections. If you would like to run or to know more about our Group ExCom contact Linda McBurney (706-631-1489).

The officers for our Group are appointed at the first Group leaders meeting after the elections. This includes the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Chair and Vice Chair must be members of the Group ExCom. We also appoint our committee chairs at this same meeting. A member does not have to be on the ExCom to be a committee chair. A list of the current officers and committee chairs is on page 4 and I encourage you to contact them if you would like to know more about their roles.

These leadership roles are opportunities to develop one's leadership skills and to mentor new leaders while supporting our Group's initiatives and programs. I hope you accept the challenge and join our Group's leadership team.

**Linda McBurney, Co-Chair, Savannah River Group**

*"It's easy to say no! when there's a deeper yes! burning inside."* Stephen Covey

## **Augusta Transportation**

Good News that Augusta Transit was successful in their grant application to purchase new electric buses. A number of people and organizations have worked hard to support a vision for cleaner air and this successful grant will make a huge difference. At the same time, this allows Augusta Transit the opportunity to address real community needs when it comes to bus routes.

## **Bike & Pedestrian Plan**

Augusta Regional Transportation Study is charged with the planning and implementation of plans to address transportation needs throughout the four county region. This region includes Aiken and Edgefield counties in South Carolina and Richmond and Columbia counties in Georgia. Along with motor vehicles, this body also has the responsibility to update the bike and pedestrian plan. This plan is updated every ten years and they have started organizing steering committee meetings to help determine how to engage with the community to get greater input. The steering committee, which I am a member of, will be meeting on September 8th and I'll learn more on how we can improve the movement of bikes and foot traffic, an important part of transportation .

## **Sustainable CSRA is a new Facebook site.**

Many aspects of how this organization will impact the community around us are unknown, but some things are pretty clear. We must find a way to reduce our carbon emissions. I've started to share some of my vision for what we can do in the area by creating a presence on Facebook called Sustainable CSRA. I hope you'll take some time to take a look. I look forward to sharing more as I continue to take steps forward. To find the site go to: [www.facebook.com/sustainablecsra](http://www.facebook.com/sustainablecsra)

**Chris Hall, Transportation Chair**

**We will not have a society if we destroy the environment.**

**Margaret Mead**

## **SRG Activities & Outings for September and October**

**Please contact the Outing Leader listed to sign up and get necessary info.**

Savannah River Group outings is going digital!! Now we ask that you register by following the link attached to the outing you are interested in. This will help us follow the number of participants and it supplies a location map. If you get this newsletter by email just click on the link and fill out the registration form. Quick and easy! If you don't get this newsletter by email let me know at [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com) and I will sign you up or send an email to the outings leader to let them know you are coming.

**17 Sept, 9:30 - 1pm Outings Leadership Training Class.** Want to train to become an outings leader? Email Cathy Black at [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com) to find out what's involved and to register.

**24 Sept, Sat. 9:30am, Hitchcock Woods Hike, 5 miles.** Hitchcock Woods is one of the largest Urban Forests in the country. Located near the heart of Aiken, SC this 2100 acre forestland is composed of many different ecosystems from sandhills to hardwood bottoms. We will explore about 5 to 6 miles of this forest over a 3 to 4 hour hike talking about the elements of the ecosystem we are traversing. This is a moderate hike through deep sand and steep terrain. We will meet at the 1770 Dibble Road entrance near the railroad tracks Aiken, SC 29801. Wear good walking shoes, bring plenty of water and lunch. Please register at <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001bfySAAQ> or email [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com) Sorry no dogs.

**8 Oct, Sat, 9:30am Bike Ride Canal Trail** This 14 mile round trip bike ride on gravel or dirt surfaces will follow the Augusta Canal downtown where we will eat lunch at a local restaurant and then return. Helmets required. Fat tire or hybrid tires needed on this surface. So pump up those tires and meet us at the Savannah Rapids Pavilion in the back parking lot near the restrooms and bike shop. Please register at <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001bfyXAAQ> or email [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com). Remember bikes must be in good condition.

**23 Oct, Sun. 1:30pm Dog Walk With or Without a Dog, 3.6 miles. River Levee Trail.** This down and back trail is the newest section of the Canal Trail with three pedestrian bridges and paved paths. We will walk 1.8 miles to Hawks Gully Bulkhead and then return. Meet at the Lake Olmstead Trailhead. Register at <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7013q000001bfycAAA> or email [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com). Dogs must be in good condition, on leash with doggie bags.

### **Soil Amendments or Waste Disposal**

The Department of Agriculture is presently in the process of promulgating rules for soil amendments. The current regulations in the Georgia Code are pretty lax, allowing for all kinds of soil amendments which may or may not benefit the potential for the soil to grow crops. One of those amendments that is currently being applied to Georgia fields is the refuse from chicken processing plants including heads, legs, intestines, stomachs, even feathers. By the time those chicken parts make it to the fields, they have developed a big stink. That big stink is what attracted our attention originally, but what we have subsequently found is even more alarming.

It appears that these chicken parts have been applied repeatedly to a small number of farms causing saturation of the soils on those farms. The nutrients from those chicken parts have created a situation that allows runoff from those farms to cause a dissolved oxygen crisis for the aquatic life in adjoining waterways.

In addition, the chicken processors are paying the farmers to spread that waste on the farmers' fields. The farmers are not paying the processors for soil amendments. So, it appears that the farmers are accepting oversaturating soil amendments because they are profiting from that activity, not by increasing crop yields but by direct payment from the processors. Indeed, crops do not seem to be involved in this process.

Given the information above, it appears that this activity of disposing of chicken parts is just that, a waste disposal operation, and not a soil amendment operation. Waste disposal is regulated by EPD, not by the Department of Agriculture. This problem will be addressed by the legislature in January. Contact your representatives and senators and tell them to **pass laws that require disposal of this waste properly.**

**Frank Carl, Conservation Chair**



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**Group Directory**

\* EXCOM Members

**Co-Chairs**

\* Linda McBurney, (706) 631-1489, [msmcb@outlook.com](mailto:msmcb@outlook.com)  
\* Sam Booher, (706) 863-2324, [sbooher@aol.com](mailto:sbooher@aol.com) (Editor )  
**Vice Chair** Vacant

**Treasurer** \* Ann Brown, (706) 840-5176, [annb57@comcast.net](mailto:annb57@comcast.net)  
**Secretary** \* Rick Davis, (706) 481- 8262 , [senn-davis@comcast.net](mailto:senn-davis@comcast.net)

**Outreach Corrd.** Vacant

**Membership Services**

Bill Jackson, (803) 442-6347, [billjakson01@gmail.com](mailto:billjakson01@gmail.com)

**Fundraising Cord.**

Ann Sutherland, (706) 699-0210, [aws3808@gmail.com](mailto:aws3808@gmail.com)

**Web Master**

Charlotte Gardner, (706) 868-1667, [vern.gardner445@comcast.net](mailto:vern.gardner445@comcast.net)

**Outings Chair**

\* Cathy Black, (706) 284-0230, [sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto:sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com)

**Conservation Chair**

Frank Carl , (706) 513-1527, [frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net)

**Political :** Tim Nelken, (706) 945-3454, [td.nelken@gmail.com](mailto:td.nelken@gmail.com)

**Transportation Chair**

Chris Hall,(803) 640-5551, [ipaddle4fun@gmail.com](mailto:ipaddle4fun@gmail.com)

**EXCOM At Large**

\* Larry Komp, (706) 825-7395 , [larrykomp@gmail.com](mailto:larrykomp@gmail.com)  
\* Diane Sprague,(706) 284-3991, [dasprague@gmail.com](mailto:dasprague@gmail.com)

**Adopt A Stream Program Coordinators**

Richmond: Frank Carl, (706) 513-1527, [frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net)  
Columbia : Tim Nelken, (706) 945-3454, [td.nelken@gmail.com](mailto:td.nelken@gmail.com)

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