



# Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



## Which Transportation Future Will Georgia Choose?

Pages 3-4



**Brune to Speak at  
Retreat** *Back Cover*



**Centennial Photo  
Contest** *Page 12*

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# Bold Thinking Could Transform Atlanta

By Colleen Kiernan

When I first heard about the Beltline in 2003 I, like most everyone, thought “How cool would that be!” I imagined riding my bike from where I lived in Poncey-Highlands to Sierra Club’s Midtown office without having to get on any major roads. I could have stared at the map all day. Someday I could take a train to see a show in East Atlanta!?! Yes, please!

The Beltline captured the imagination of many Atlantans, and our elected officials, once hesitant to push the limits of our Tax Allocation District (TAD) limits, voted in 2005 to approve the Redevelopment Plan and the Beltline TAD. A Five-Year workplan was created with extensive input from neighborhood leaders and the public. Low and behold, five years later, it’s beginning to come together!

The Beltline Partnership’s effort to raise private dollars to get the parks and trails going has been enormously successful. About a year ago, Kaiser Permanente and the Kennedys/PATH Foundation donated \$5 million to construct the Eastside trail, which will connect Piedmont Park to DeKalb Avenue. In March, Ryan Gravel (who hatched the project as a grad stu-



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

dent at Georgia Tech), led a walk so Atlantans could have one last look at the “before.” The grand opening should be sometime late summer or early fall, which will be a nice complement to the Old Fourth Ward Park that opened in the spring.

So far, about 10% of the 33 miles of Beltline multi-use trails are complete. The West End/Westview trail measured about a mile, about five years ago, when the first Beltline 5k was held. Last Saturday, I decided to go check out the progress by running the segment again in the SW Beltline 5k. There is almost twice as much complete, and more is under way.

Again our leaders have the opportunity to make bold decisions to support transit and the Beltline. The Atlanta Regional Roundtable is developing the project list for the penny transportation sales tax, which is beginning to take shape. Of the nearly \$1.6 billion the City of Atlanta requested for the Beltline light rail, \$700 million is still on the list. If we can hold the Atlanta Regional Roundtable’s feet to the fire, the vision that stirred so many imaginations may indeed become reality in the next ten years.

## About Georgia Sierran

Advertising is welcomed! See our new, downloadable rate card at [http://georgia.sierraclub.org/news/ga\\_sierran\\_rate\\_card.pdf](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/news/ga_sierran_rate_card.pdf).

Articles: Send materials to: [gasierran@gmail.com](mailto:gasierran@gmail.com). Maximum word length: 750 words with one photo. Please include high-resolution digital photos (200 dpi) with your story. Moving? Send address changes to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968. Send changes by email: [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

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## Sierra Club 101



Are you new to the Sierra Club and want to get involved but not sure how? Do you know what issues the Georgia Chapter is working on and how to get involved? Do you want to know who we are and what we’re doing?

Join us on **Saturday, September 10th** from 10:30 AM to noon for Sierra Club 101, your crash course on the Club, the Georgia Chapter, and our issues. Meet with volunteer leaders and staff at the Sierra Club office at 743B East College Ave., Decatur as we introduce you to our Sierra Club.

Go to [georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101) to RSVP or contact Sybil Cypress at [gasierraclub101@gmail.com](mailto:gasierraclub101@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## Be Green, Save Green – Become an E-Subscriber Today!



Did you know that the Georgia Chapter spends roughly 10 percent of its annual budget printing and mailing the *Sierran*? Looking for an easy way to help the chapter – and the environment? Remember that at any time you may “opt out” of receiving the printed *Sierran*. Members who do so will continue to receive every issue in its entirety (in full, brilliant color, no less) – only it will arrive in your inbox, not your mailbox.

If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you’d like to switch to the electronic edition please contact Genie Strickland at **404-607-1262 x.221** or [genie.strickland@sierraclub.org](mailto:genie.strickland@sierraclub.org). Our budget – and our trees! – will thank you.

Note: in accordance with Chapter bylaws, all members will receive the annual election issue by mail.



# Advocates Urge Transit Focus for 2012 Tax Vote



*The 2012 'T-Splot' brings an opportunity for major transit expansion. Will we take advantage?*

**By Ashley Robbins**

Thirty years ago Atlanta was seen as a progressive city when it came to transit. In fact, President Reagan came to Atlanta 1981 and tour the MARTA system in it's second year of operations. But MARTA, which started off with a bang by taking advantage of federal money that had been intended to fund the system in Seattle, fell behind without support from the surrounding region and the state of Georgia.

The Atlanta metro region now stands at a cross roads. For the first time in our state's history, 2012 will give us the opportunity to vote to fund transportation as a region. Georgia was divided up into twelve regions by House Bill 277 and charged with drafting project lists to be offered to the voters next July. The bill dictates that a one cent sales tax can be levied in the region to fund roads, bridges, and transit improvements and capital.

The Atlanta region was defined as the ten county core of Fulton, Dekalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Clayton, Cherokee, Douglas, Henry, Rockdale, and Fayette. Including the city of Atlanta, this region is home to 4.5 million people and will generate \$7.5 billion in tax revenue if the referendum is passed. Fifteen percent of the funds will go to the local

jurisdictions to be spent as they choose and the remaining \$6.2 billion will go to the region to fund the project list that will be created by local officials.

A twenty-one member roundtable was created by the region and given the task of creating the project list to be funded by a passing referendum. One county commissioner and one mayor from each county sits on the roundtable along with the mayor of Atlanta. On June 1st this roundtable was presented with an unconstrained project list totaling over \$22 billion worth of the local jurisdictions transportation wish lists. Transit highlights of this list include MARTA heavy rail expansions and state-of-good repair projects, light rail into Cobb and Gwinnett counties, commuter rail, segments of the Atlanta Beltline and bus service for Clayton County which was cut due to budget shortfalls in 2010.

Following a request by the roundtable to make the list a more manageable size, the Atlanta Regional Commission staff whittled the unconstrained list to a \$11.5 million price tag, eliminating projects such as the light rail line up I-85 and the commuter rail line which was later added back to the list. Following this semi-constrained list, the ARC staff released three proposed projects lists: one that has a road emphasis, one that

is balanced and a third transit oriented list. These lists allot 37, 47and 58% of the funds to transit respectively. Notably, all three lists contain the Beltline, a MARTA heavy rail expansion along the Doraville line, and MARTA state of good repair funding. The transit emphasis list adds a portion if the Cobb light rail line as well as light rail along I-20 in south Dekalb County.

The five member executive committee of the regional roundtable has until August to present their draft project list to be funded by the referendum. This list must be approved by the entire roundtable by October 15th of this year for the list to be put to vote. As an incentive to agree to a project list, HB 277 dictates that state match for local transportation funding from GDOT will be cut from 90% to 15% if the roundtable can not agree on the list.

The Georgia Chapter has joined two coalitions that are working towards ensuring that the Transportation Investment Act for the Atlanta region contains a considerable investment in public transit. These two groups are the Fair Share for Transit campaign and the Just Transportation Circle.

The Fair Share for Transit campaign has been founded by the Livable Communities Coalition and is funded through several nation grants. The mission of the campaign is to ensure that a fair share of the revenue generated by the one cent sales tax goes to transit, in the neighborhood of 40% to 60% of the region's estimated \$6.4 billion. The campaign is also working to include safe routes to transit with bike and pedestrian safety projects receiving 5% of the revenue. More than 70 organizations have signed on to the campaign along with the Sierra Club including Citizens for Progressive Transit, Mothers and Other for Clean Air, and Environment Georgia as well as several of the area transit operators and local community improvement districts.

**Continued on page 5**

# The Outer Perimeter: A Road that Won't Die

**By David Emory**  
*Transportation Issue Leader*

Nearly a decade ago, Georgia environmental advocates secured one of their most important victories on the transportation front in recent memory – the defeat of the proposed Northern Arc expressway, a 60-mile ribbon of asphalt that would have cut through 4 exurban counties, driving the outer reaches of metropolitan Atlanta, already one of the most sprawling regions in the country, yet further into the North Georgia piedmont. The Northern Arc was itself a remnant of an earlier, even more ambitious proposal, the 200-mile Outer Perimeter, that would have created a second circumferential highway around Atlanta, over 20 miles farther from the city center than I-285, the existing perimeter highway that drove much of Atlanta's sprawl in the late 20th century.

The decisive defeat of the Northern Arc may have seemed to be the end of the line for the Outer Perimeter. But this is Georgia, of course, where road projects die hard; the highway lobby remains a powerful force in statewide politics, and the extensive planning and engineering work – and in some cases, property acquisition – previously completed for these proposals make them relatively easy to resurrect. And so, with discussions about new transportation funding sources such as the 2012 “T-Splot” referenda heating up, it should be no surprise that variations on the Outer Perimeter concept are once again rearing their ugly head. Below is a primer on several active proposals that in some way trace their roots to the supposedly “dead” Outer Perimeter.

## **US 411 Connector, Alignment DV-E**

**Location:** Bartow County, near Cartersville

**The Proposal:** The US 411 connector, a proposal that dates to the 1970's, would connect Highway 411 to I-75, allowing traffic between Rome and Atlanta to bypass congested surface roads

near Cartersville. While many agree that improved connectivity between Rome and Atlanta is needed, the project has been mired in controversy since Georgia DOT selected what is by far the most destructive alternative being considered, known as Alignment D-VE, as the preferred route for the road. Route D-VE would blast through ecologically sensitive Dobbins Mountain, destroying a 100-acre conservation easement and jeopardizing the threatened and federally protected Cherokee darter. While far less destructive (and cheaper) alternatives exist, D-VE is unique in that it aligns with the originally proposed Northern Arc.

**Cost:** \$214 million (Alignment D-VE)

**Status:** Georgia DOT remains committed to the D-VE proposal, though there is strong community opposition to the alignment and additional environmental reviews must be completed before any construction can begin. A lawsuit on behalf of property owners around Dobbins Mountain to block the road is also a possibility.

**For More Information:** The Coalition for the Right Road, <http://therightroad.wordpress.com>

## **“Western Commercial Connector”/“Northwest Bypass”**

**Location:** Bartow, Paulding, Douglas, Carroll, Coweta, Spalding, and Lamar Counties.

**The Proposal:** No doubt the most ambitious of the various Outer Perimeter revival proposals is a relatively recent concept that would essentially build the entire western half of the originally proposed loop. Branching off I-75 near Cartersville, the road would cut a 113-mile arc through mostly rural areas west of Atlanta, tying in with I-20 near Villa Rica and I-85 near Newnan, before rejoining I-75 in Lamar County, about halfway between Atlanta and Macon.

Initial concepts call for a tolled four-lane divided expressway. The project is being spearheaded by officials from

Paulding County, though a more general concept for a “northwest bypass” was identified in Georgia's “Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan,” a road-heavy vision for future transportation spending developed by state officials in 2010.

**Cost:** \$2 Billion (the WCC group's estimate) to \$7.3 Billion (per the SSTP)

**Status:** This concept is still in the very early stages of development, with no concrete funding identified. Initial reaction from stakeholders along the route has been mixed at best, with some elected officials questioning the need for the road and the potential for negative impacts on the rural character of their communities. Still, no road proposal should ever be completely written off in Georgia, and environmental advocates should continue to keep a watchful eye on this one.

## **The “Sugarloaf Parkway Extension” (Phases 2 & 3)**

**Location:** Northeast Gwinnett County

**The Proposal:** A project that has largely flown under the radar until recently, this concept would effectively build the eastern 12 miles, or one-fifth, of the Northern Arc as originally proposed, connecting Highway 316 near Lawrenceville to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, much of it using right-of-way originally preserved for the Outer Perimeter. Officially called the “Sugarloaf Parkway Extension,” the road, to be built as a limited-access facility, would also intersect both I-85 and I-985 near the Mall of Georgia.

**Cost:** \$463 million for both phases.

**Status:** Both phases were submitted as part of Gwinnett County's “wish list” for the 2012 T-Splot, and as the Sieran goes to press, most drafts of a potential constrained list include one or both phases. Provided that it makes the final list to be presented to voters, expect this road, the only major new limited-access highway being considered for the tax, to become a flashpoint as the debate over the 2012 referendum heats up.

# Help Needed on Wilderness Issues

**By Larry Winslett, Chapter Wildlands Committee**

One of the main focuses of the Chapter Wildlands Committee is the protection of Georgia's existing fourteen wilderness areas. On that front, there are three current issues that need immediate attention. The first is H.R. 1581, or the "No More Wilderness Act," currently in congress. Officially titled the "Wilderness and Roadless Area Release Act," this bill would roll back protections from tens of millions of acres of Wilderness Study Areas and wilderness-quality Roadless Areas. The bill would nullify the Roadless Rule and eliminate all Wilderness Study Areas. Unfortunately one Georgia Representative (Paul Broun) has already signed on to this bad bill. Please call your representative today and ask them to oppose H.R. 1581. Call Rep. Broun and urge him to withdraw his support of this bill.

The second issue relates to Cumberland Island. Recently the National Park Service announced a courageous decision on the most important issue facing Cumberland Island - retirement of retained rights. This week, the Park chose not to allow a wealthy island family to continue living on the island after their retained rights had already expired. Instead, The Grange will be opened to the public and integrated into the south end historic walking tours. It was a gutsy decision, and the right one. Both the law and the vision for Cumberland Island National Seashore are very clear, retained rights are meant to expire over time so that the Park can gradually revert to a more natural character. Taxpayers already paid millions of dollars to these families to purchase their lands, and acknowledged their gratitude to the sellers by allowing them to continue living on Cumberland Island National Seashore for nearly 40 years. Tell the Park Service that you support their preferred alternative to open The Grange to the public and let the retained rights

expire on schedule. Visit [www.wildcumberland.org](http://www.wildcumberland.org) for more on this issue and how to comment. (Comment deadline is Aug. 12th.)

The third issue is about boating on the Chattooga River. The U.S. Forest Service appears poised to cave in to extreme whitewater boating groups, proposing to more than double the headwaters stretches that would be opened to boating for the first time since 1976. These well-funded kayak lobbies are also continuing to pursue their goal of opening the entire twenty-one mile stretch of wild river to unlimited boating all the time at all river flows. We continue to oppose opening these parts of the river, which include the sensitive Chattooga Cliffs, the entire Ellicott Rock Wilderness and the equally wild Rock Gorge section of the river. These parts of the river have a variety of sensitive and endangered wildlife species. Opening up this stretch, in time, invites turning a wild, spiritual haven into a much more congested and human impacted area like parts of the lower two-thirds of the Chattooga.

We urge you to ask the Forest Service to draw a line at the Route 28 bridge (the lower-most boundary of the Upper Chattooga area) to safeguard it for continued use by hunters, hikers, anglers, campers, picnickers, nature lovers, birders, botanists, swimmers, and those who prefer low-impact recreation and solitude in one of the last remaining wild places in the entire Southern Appalachians and Southeast. You can visit [www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org) and [www.chattoogariver.org](http://www.chattoogariver.org) for updates and more on this issue. You can email your comments to: [comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-southern-francismarion-sumter@fs.fed.us) (Comment deadline is Aug. 15th.)

For more on these and other Wilderness issues in Georgia come and join us at one of our committee meetings—volunteers needed! Contact Mike Murdock ( [murdock1@mindspring.com](mailto:murdock1@mindspring.com) ) for times and location.

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### **2012 Vote, continued from page 3**

The Fair Share campaign recently released it's own draft project list that includes expanding local and express bus service through Cobb, Gwinnett and GRTA as well as funding for bus service in Clayton County, MARTA state-of-good-repair funding, as well as new capital projects such as the Griffin commuter rail line, the Beltline, and the various light rail projects that were proposed. This project list was delivered to the roundtable along with a white paper which supports the case for expanding transit.

The Just Transportation Circle, which has received funding from the Livable Communities Coalition, is being spearheaded by the Partnership for Southern Equity. The Just Transportation Circle is working to ensure that social equity is considered as projects are chosen with the motto that, "We all do better when we all do better." The coalition is made up of

several groups such as MARTA, the Algamated Transit Union and several churches and interfaith groups. The campaign is hosting community forums in the counties of Cobb, Dekalb, Fulton, Clayton, and Gwinnett to educate residents and gather data to create a white paper to present to the Atlanta Regional Roundtable. So far two communities meetings have been conducted in Cobb and Dekalb counties, both with attendance of over 100.

We still face many obstacles to create a strong, passable referendum including the questions of regional governance and the equity of Fulton and Dekalb counties, the only two counties that pay into the MARTA system and would face a double tax on transportation. The region now looks to its leaders to provide us with a list that we can be proud to support. HB 277 represents what could be a new era in the growth of Atlanta, seeing her catch up to her own legacy and become the world-class and progressive city we demand her to be.



## Sierrans Explore Georgia through John Muir Outings



In celebration of Earth Day this year, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club decided to go back to its John Muir roots by hosting a series of five outings – one every Saturday in April – where Georgians learned about threatened places in Georgia. To support the Georgia Chapter’s work to protect these special, threatened places, a suggested donation of \$100 was requested.

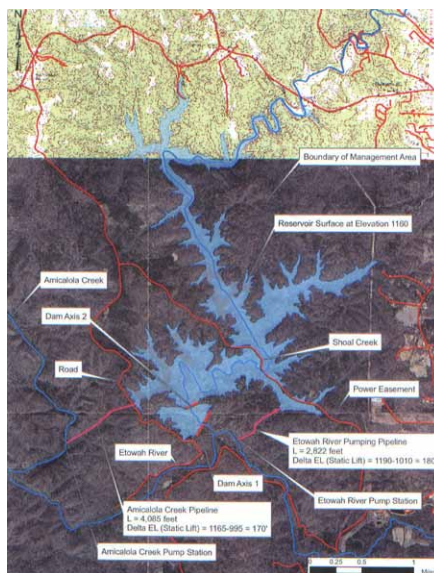
*“God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.”*

– John Muir,  
founder of the Sierra Club

### April 2nd: Dawson Forest

**Leaders:** Alan Toney and Bob Springfield, with special guest Joe Cook of the Coosa River Basin Initiative.

**Threat:** Construction of a 2,000-acre reservoir in the Dawson Forest Wildlife Management Area (WMA), a 10,000-acre tract of land owned by the City of Atlanta, wiping out endangered species and their habitat.



### April 9th: Dobbins Mountain

**Leaders:** Thorne Winters (issue) and Lee Thomas (outing)

**Threat:** Georgia Department of Transportation’s proposed US 411 Connector (see p. 4). As currently planned, the connector would blast through Dobbins Mountain, destroy a 100-acre conservation easement and historic mine on the mountain, and jeopardize the threatened and federally protected Cherokee darter which has been located on the property.





# Conservation & Outings

## April 16th: Savannah River

**Leaders:** Steve Willis, Karen Grainey, and Steve Wagner

**Threat:** The US Army Corps of Engineers is poised to move forward on a plan to dredge the Savannah River in order to accommodate bigger container ships and expand the Savannah Port.



## April 23rd: Unicoi Lodge to Helen



**Leaders:** Larry Winslett and Arthur Ratliff

**Threat:** This north Georgia hike looked at several environmental threats in the area, including the the proposed Interstate 3 from Savannah to Knoxville and the wooly adelgid that is killing the Hemlocks and other endangered species.



## April 30th: Oconee Paddle



**Leaders:** Erin Glynn and Martin McConoughy

**Threat:** The proposed coal fired Plant Washington would use up to 16 million gallons a day from the river and along the 30 mile pipeline where they propose to dig 16 wells.



# You Don't Have to Be Wealthy to Make a Difference at The Chapter

Did you know that over 60% of the Georgia Chapter's budget comes from individual donations? In addition to responses to our mailing appeals and online donations, bequests and other planned gifts are a vital and continuing resource that strengthens Sierra Club's ability to preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

### Bequests to Your Chapter

Bequests to the Georgia Chapter support our state-level conservation work, like bringing clean energy online and adding wilderness area in North Georgia. Planned Gifts are particularly important to the Chapter as they can provide significant resources to allow continued conservation activities over an extended period of time.

Bequests to the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter are not tax deductible; however, charitable (tax-deductible) bequests can be designated to the Chapter through The Sierra Club Foundation.

### Sierra Club and The Sierra Club Foundation

Bequests to Sierra Club can fund national and regional lobbying activities. This support is particularly valuable because legislation is usually the final step in formally establishing national parks and wilderness areas, setting standards for clean water and air, protecting our precious coastlines, and achieving other environmental goals. However, since lobbying is not a charitable activity, bequests to Sierra Club are not tax-deductible for estate tax purposes.

Under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001 as amended in 2010, the estate tax shelter has increased to \$5 million (\$10 million for couples) for 2011 and 2012. In subsequent years, the status of the federal estate tax is uncertain and will require future legislation. If your estate will not be subject to estate taxes, in most instances your bequest can be planned for Sierra Club

without adverse tax consequences. In the event you believe your estate may exceed the estate tax shelter at the time of your death, you may wish to plan your bequest for The Sierra Club Foundation so that your estate can claim a charitable deduction.

### Would you like to earn income for life?

If you are planning a bequest, you may wish to consider the financial benefits of a life income trust. Many people have realized significant advantages by using a major portion of a planned bequest for the establishment of a trust using complex assets such as appreciated assets, rental property or a second home.

Life income gifts may offer a tax deduction, a possible reduction in capital gains and potential tax-free income.

If you would like to see how a life income trust might benefit your specific situation, the Gift Planning Program would be happy to prepare a financial analysis for you. Information is also

available to you on how a Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trust can benefit both you, Sierra Club and your Chapter.

### IRA Charitable Rollover

New legislation allows individuals 70½ or older to make a gift from his or her IRA of up to \$100,000 in 2011 without incurring tax penalties. In order to remain tax free, gifts must be transferred by your IRA administrator directly to The Sierra Club Foundation. Call (800) 932-4270 to let us know that this gift is to benefit the Georgia Chapter.

**Further Information:** *If you have any questions about planning a bequest or if you are interested in learning more about life income trusts and other deferred gifts, please contact: Gift Planning Program, Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, California, 94105; gift.planning@sierraclub.org; (800) 932-4270; www.sierraclub.org/giftplanning*

## Support the Chapter With Another Kind of Giving

Looking for another creative way to support the Chapter? Help us fulfill our "wish list" of wanted items:

**Silent Auction Prizes:** The banquet at our Jekyll Island retreat will feature a great silent auction, proceeds of which will go to the Georgia Chapter. Do you have a good or service that other Sierra Club members want?

**Office Chairs:** The Decatur office is now home to as many as six Sierra Club employees and interns, and we have a growing need for gently-used, ergonomically sound desk chairs. Our backs will thank you!

*If you can help with either of these requests, please contact Colleen at (404) 607-1262 x224 or colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org.*



## You Say Goodbye...

By Colleen Kiernan

Lots of transition is going on at the Georgia Chapter office! We bid adieu to our feisty Beyond Coal Campaign organizer, **Erin Glynn**, and wish her well on her new adventure at New England Law School in Boston. For the last five years, Erin has been the force behind so much of the Sierra Club activity in Georgia. One day she'll be in a suit at an EPA hearing, the next day dressed up as Dwight Brown for Cobb-opoly, the next in her river clothes for a float down the Oconee. Erin manages to do about a million things at once. I think she writes strategy memos, calls volunteers, eats lunch and paints her toenails in the same ten minutes. All the while posting on Facebook and Twitter. We will miss you, Erin!



## ...I Say Hello

At the same time we welcome **Jenna Garland**, a Cherokee County native and UGA graduate as the new Southeast Associate Press Secretary for the Beyond Coal Campaign. Jenna has a strong organizing background, having graduated from GreenCorps and most recently working for the Southern Energy Network organizing college students in Athens. The rest of the Southeast states are lucky we have to share her!



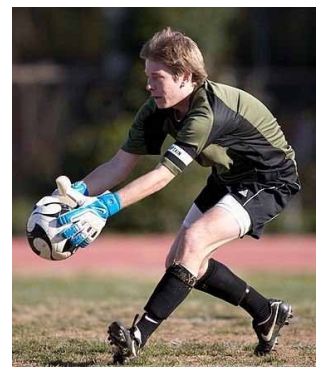
We also welcome **David Emory**, our favorite transit geek (I have gone around the block in at least two different Georgia towns so he could get a good picture of the train depot) and ExCom member who just started a new job with OpenPlans. OpenPlans is a New York-based non-profit that develops software to help riders and transit systems communicate better. When he's not on the road, he'll be working with us here in Decatur!

## Meet Your Georgia Chapter Summer Interns!

**Anni Rainio** is a junior marketing major at Georgia Southern University who will be interning for Colleen Kiernan and the Georgia Chapter this summer. "I'm super excited about this internship because I care about the current and future sustainability of our environment and learning how I can interact with people to compel them to create change," said Anni. As a Sierra Club summer intern, Anni will be working on the water and energy tour throughout the state, and will be continuing her work as an assistant to the Georgians for Smart Energy Media Working Group. Anni is looking forward to a great summer and can be contacted at [anni31rainio@gmail.com](mailto:anni31rainio@gmail.com).



**Grant Coyle** will be a Senior at University of Florida, majoring in Political Science and minoring in Environmental Studies. Grant grew up in Atlanta and will be working with the Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club this summer to help put together a media tour highlighting the connection between water and energy in our state. "I have loved spending time outdoors since I was very young and I enjoy going backpacking and fishing in the Southeast," said Grant, who just completed the LSAT and will be applying to law school very soon. "I am very interested in environmental law, especially energy policy and law and hope to continue working with Sierra Club in the future and working to protect the environment through the legal field," Grant can be reached at [dgrant.coyle@gmail.com](mailto:dgrant.coyle@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Meetings & Programs

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., program begins at 7:30.

### **August 6, 9 AM: Connally Nature Park Hike**

**Location:** Connally Nature Park, East Point, GA

**Rated:** 1 mi./1-2 MPH/25' elev. gain

**Description:** This is a nature walk through a 27-acre forest, preserved in part by Sierra Club members, and includes state champion white oak, and pink ladyslippers. Bring cameras, plant and animal guide books. Families are welcome. Limit: 12. Contact: Gordon Draves, (404) 766-3456, or non-smoke4ga@hotmail.com – please include Connally in Subject line of reply.

### **August 9: CRNRA's Jerry Hightower**

Ranger Jerry Hightower works at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in Environmental Education. He has been to our group a couple of times in the past with very interesting stories, and participates with the Georgia Perimeter College Native Plant Garden plant talks. He can describe how to eat cattails—root, stalk and pollen are all edible—pollen pancakes anyone? He has also been involved with some new programs at CRNRA. So come and find out what is new on the Chattahoochee.

### **September 10: Adopt-A-Stream in Medlock Park**

We'll be doing biologic monitoring and we need a lot of eyes to find the critters in Peachtree Creek. During previous monitoring, participants found red worms, insect larvae, clams, and crayfish. Meet at Medlock Park at 10 AM. Willivee Drive runs between North Decatur Road and North Druid Hills Road, with Scott Circle in between those, turn here go about 1/4 mile to near 948 Scott Circle (use for GOOGLE Maps) to the parking lot on the left (lots of baseball fields). Park at far end, then follow Sierra Club Signs and find us at the picnic table near Peachtree Creek behind Ball Field 5. For more details call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172 or go to: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>.

### **September 13: Regular Meeting**

Mike Rehg will be speaking regarding the building of his home in the north Georgia mountains "off the grid". In other words, he will be telling about the new ways to produce energy for his house and ways to save energy. His tips can save you money, too.

### **September 17: Photography Walk at Stone Mountain**

While this is not a Sierra Club event, it is led by Sierra member Larry Winslett. Please register by calling 770-498-5658. Adults and children older than 15yrs old.

## **Sights and Sounds of the May 14 Hike to the Old Atlanta Prison Farm**



Jack Harich and Debbie Gathmann join in with Gordon Draves, hike-leader turned song-leader. (Photo by Debbie Zimmerman)



Tranquility Lake awaits you. Largemouth bass were swimming at our feet as we stood on the bank in quiet awe of this beautiful scene. (Photo by Jack Harich)



Pollen-laden bumblebee on thistle--it's a lil' bit Scottish (the national flower of Scotland). (Photo by Sherry Jones)



Part of discarded Atlanta's Carnegie library facade. (Photo by Sherry Jones)

For more information please see <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

**Meeting Location:** Meeting Location: Unless otherwise indicated, Metro Atlanta Group General Membership meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. at the intersection of with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is off East Lake Dr. From MARTA's East Lake station, it's a 15 minute walk northeast along East Lake Dr. MARTA Bus 2 may be running again between North Avenue and Decatur stations on Ponce de Leon.



## A Fond Farewell

It is with mixed emotions that I write this farewell to the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. I have been very fortunate, call it blessed, to have been a part of the Sierra Club in Georgia since 1995. I have enjoyed seeing the growth and maturation of the Club and will always have a fond place in my heart for those tireless individuals that make the success of the Georgia Chapter and its associated Groups their mission. However, the time for me to begin my next adventure is here.



My day job as an environmental consultant is providing me with an opportunity that I cannot pass up. In August, my employer will be opening a new branch office in my true hometown of Asheville, North Carolina and I will be heavily involved in getting the office up and running. Having grown up in Asheville, this is a dream come true and life in full circle. I will enjoy the benefits of the outdoor pleasures of the Blue Ridge Mountains and the vibrancy and funky attitude of cool, green Asheville. Y'all come visit!

I will, however, leave behind a committed bunch of folks who have indulged my desire to keep the Greater Gwinnett

Group alive and growing. A little over three years ago, we were at a crossroads with the group leadership, ironically enough, departing geographically. I would not allow the group to disband as had been proposed. Together with Dan Friedman, Tamyra Hyatt, and Art Sheldon, we rebuilt the Group and continue to have a flourishing active Sierra Club presence in Gwinnett. And we all know Gwinnett NEEDS us!

The Gwinnett Group is in solid shape thanks to the hard work of those mentioned above along with our Adopt-a-Stream leaders Michael and Gloria Hallen and Lynn and Michael Beach. Beth Remmes is really bolstering our conservation efforts and Debbie Gill counts the beans and keeps our finances in line. July 1st, Dan Friedman will become interim Chair and will do a fantastic job. I thank you all for your dedication to growing the group and making it a great place for gathering, learning, and living out our passion to 'Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet'. See you on the trail!

- Tom Morrissey

## Gwinnett Group Update

The summer heat has arrived. Was it that long ago that Atlanta closed down due to Snow for almost week? Lately tornados have destroyed cities across America including Tuscaloosa and Joplin. Hundreds have died and millions of dollars of damages have made 2011 the worst year for destructive tornados in decades. So, what has the Gwinnett Group been doing about it? Well, we don't control the weather at least in the near term but we are learning about things we can do in our own neighborhoods to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to all our efforts to reduce the factors that cause global warming. Our April meeting was a great explanation of EVs, Electric Vehicles, and how they can save gasoline and electricity.

In May, Greening Neighborhoods presented a plan for reducing resource consumption including electricity, natural gas, water and even recyclables. They use the great American tradition of competition to get people to adopt behaviors that they would not ordinarily do. In the process, resource consumption decreases. Our June annual picnic was a major success. Everyone had a great time eating home made food and catching up with friends that we do not get a chance to do at our regular meeting.

Our July meeting will have Ashley Robbins, President of Citizens for Progressive Transit, discussing the latest development with transit in Atlanta and Gwinnett. Our August meeting will be concerned with industrial animal farming. Leah Garces will be discussing the implication of factory farming and why it affects us living an urban life. Our Suwanee Creek Adopt-a-Stream monitoring program continues and we have made great progress over the past years and have built a significant database to provide information to Gwinnett County and the DNR. Come and join us. There is still much to be done.

- Dan Friedman

A promotional graphic for EarthShare Georgia. It features a large green tree silhouette. The EarthShare Georgia logo is centered, with the tagline "One environment. One simple way to care for it." below it. The main text reads "Working for the day when our Air, Land and Water are clean, abundant and healthy." Below that, it says "Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee giving campaign today!". At the bottom, the phone number "404.873.3173" and the website "www.earthsharega.org" are listed.

**EarthShare**  
Georgia

One environment.  
One simple way to care for it.

**Working for the day  
when our Air, Land  
and Water are clean,  
abundant and healthy.**

Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee  
giving campaign today!

404.873.3173      www.earthsharega.org

## Centennial Photo Contest Results

**By Wolfgang Tiedtke**

On May 6th the Centennial Group held their 2nd photo contest. Pictures could be submitted in three categories:

- ULP: Urban Landscapes, Parks and Gardens
- ANH: Animals or Living Creatures in their natural habitat
- NLP: Natural Landscapes & Panoramas

Two professional photographers acted as judges. Kathryn Kolb, well-known to the Sierra Club for her work on Tree Ordinances, also made a brief presentation about her art and the audience was awe-struck over the beauty of her compositions. The other judge was Darrell Ardita whose work is oriented towards portraits and people. Anyone who wants to learn more about these artists can go to their websites: [www.kathrynkolb.com](http://www.kathrynkolb.com) and [www.bgzstudios.com](http://www.bgzstudios.com).

### Winners: Urban Landscapes, Parks and Gardens

**1st Prize:**  
Lisa Johnston,  
"Garden Leaf"



**2nd Prize:**  
Wolfgang Tiedtke,  
"City Park Bremen"



**3rd Prize:** Shae Avery (Photo not available)

### Winners: Animals or Living Creatures in their Natural Habitat

**1st Prize:**  
Carina O'Bara,  
"Emerging Cicada"



**2nd Prize:** Jane Springfield,  
"Alligator on the move"



**2nd Prize:**  
Lisa Johnston,  
"Double Headed Blackbird"

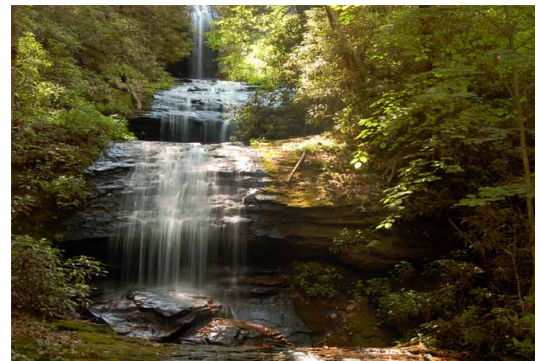
### Winners: Natural Landscapes & Panoramas



**1st Prize:** Wolfgang Tiedtke,  
"Tradewinds"



**2nd Prize:** Bob Springfield,  
"Bryce Canyon Tree"



**3rd Prize:** Charlie Smith,  
"DeSoto Falls"



## Savannah River Group

### Savannah River Group Update

For some time we have wanted to expand our Outings program and offer more variety...enter Cathy Black, our new, state-certified Outings Chair who is an avid back-packer and has already led some trips in beginning backpacking. Cathy is a professional forester and is employed by the Georgia State Forestry Commission. She will have some help from others interested in helping with outings, including Linda McBurney. We are so happy to have them on board!

In keeping with one of our conservation goals, we have continued to offer organic refreshments at our monthly meetings. In April, we were the only environmental group to have a booth at the Locally Grown celebration promoting organic gardening and supporting locally grown foods. Our membership Chair, April Wilson, represented our group in helping the Locally Grown organization with the event which was very well attended. We gave away a lot of state and group newsletters to many folks who wanted to know more about Sierra Club.

In May Sam Booher, Co-Chair, and Frank Carl, Conservation Chair, teamed up to offer a PowerPoint program on "Georgia's Water Wars." We had a slightly larger group of attendees, probably because Augustans are very concerned about legislation, particularly basin transfers, which would affect our Savannah River. It looks like a hot summer...in more ways than one!

- Judy Gordon

### Candidates for Chapter Excom Wanted

The Chapter Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the Executive Committee (ExCom). The Chapter ExCom has oversight responsibility for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to ensure that it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know of someone who would be a good ExCom member, or if you are interested in serving yourself, contact Ashley Robbins at [Ashley.Robbins@Georgia.SierraClub.org](mailto:Ashley.Robbins@Georgia.SierraClub.org) or at 276-780-3748 no later than August 15, 2011. Chapter and Group candidate statements and any nomination petitions for petition candidates must be submitted by September 1, 2011. You may refer to the Georgia Sierra Club website ([www.gasierraclub.org](http://www.gasierraclub.org)) to review the responsibilities of ExCom.

Complete rules for the election are posted on the Sierra Club website. Ballots with candidate statements will be mailed by October 15th. Ballots must be received by 5 PM, Tuesday, November 15th and will be counted at 6:30 PM on Nov. 15 in the Chapter Office in Decatur. Details for returning ballots and ballot counting will be published in the October Sierran.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club**

**Gift Planning Program**

85 Second Street, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

[gift.planning@sierraclub.org](mailto:gift.planning@sierraclub.org) • (800) 932-4270

# Contacts

## Executive Committee

**Chair:** Mark Woodall, 706-674-2242,  
markwoodall@windstream.net  
*At-Large Elected Member*

**Vice Chair - Administrative:** Ashley Robbins,  
276-780-3748, ashley.robbs@georgia.sierraclub.org,  
*Centennial Group Delegate*

**Vice Chair - Policy:** Steve Willis, 912-341-0718  
snwillis@yahoo.com  
*Coastal Group Delegate*

Sam Booher, 706-863-2324, sbooher@aol.com  
*Savannah River Group Delegate*

Todd Daniel, 678-567-2052, todddan@mac.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Mary Drake, 706-412-9728,  
marydrake2011@livemail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

D. Gordon Draves, 404-766-3456,  
nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com  
*Metro Atlanta Group Delegate*

David Emory, 404-433-4914,  
david.emory@gmail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Dan Friedman, 404-610-5770, dan3688@aol.com  
*Greater Gwinnett Group Delegate*

Kelly Jordan, 404.522.8629,  
kellyjordan@earthlink.net  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Stacey Kronquest, 912-691-0769,  
stacey@kronquest.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Dean Rogers, 706-837-0037,  
dean@mediamindz.com  
*LaGrange Group Delegate*

J. Michael Walls, 404-643-5283,  
mwalls@ellijay.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

## Appointed Officers & Chairs

**Secretary:** Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

**Treasurer:** Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

**Assistant Treasurer:** Lynn Beach,  
lynnmichaelbeach@gmail.com

**Conservation Chair:** Alan Toney,  
mudflat@comcast.net

**Conservation Vice Chair:** Sam Booher,  
sbooher@aol.com

**Conservation Vice Chair:** Larry Winslett,  
winfog@windstream.net

**Finance Chair:** Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

**Fundraising Chair:** Erin McPhail Wetty,  
ewetty@seyfarth.com

**Inner City Outings:** Allison Williams,  
adwilliams8@yahoo.com

**Legislative:** Mark Woodall,  
markwoodall@windstream.net

**Litigation:** Mary Drake, mdrake126@charter.net

**Membership Engagement Chair:** Ashley Robbins,  
ashley.robbs@georgia.sierraclub.org

**Newsletter Co-Editors:** David Emory & Ashley Robbins,  
gasierran@gmail.com

**Outings:** Scott Sanders,  
thebrittinggroup@gmail.com

**Personnel:** Ashley Robbins, ashley.robbs@georgia.sierraclub.org

**Political Chair:** Eddie Ehlert,  
edehlert@bellsouth.net

**Sierra Student Coordinator:** Kelsea Norris,  
kelseanorris@gmail.com

**Training Team Coordinator:** *vacant*

**Webmaster:** Charlotte Gardner,  
ga\_sierra\_webmaster@yahoo.com

## Conservation Campaigns

### RAIL Committee:

David Emory, david.emory@gmail.com  
*Meeting: 4th Mon., 7 p.m., chapter office.  
Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.*

### Smart Energy Solutions:

Mike Walls, mwalls@ellijay.com  
*Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office*

### Wildlands and Wildlife:

Mike Murdock, murdock1@mindspring.com  
*Meeting: 3rd Tues., 7:00 p.m., Location TBA  
Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.*

### Beyond Factory Farming:

Leah Garces, leah.garces@ciwt.org  
*Meeting: 2nd Mon., chapter office*

## Volunteer Issue Leaders

The Conservation Committee is organized by issues. To get involved in Conservation issues, please contact the Issue Leader of your choice below.

### Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:

Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.com

**Clean Air:** Curt Smith, chsmith@speakeasy.net

**Coastal:** Judy Jennings,  
judyjennings@comcast.net

**Coastal Marsh:** Mark Mosely, msmosely@aol.com

**Cumberland:** *vacant*

**Factory Farms:** Thomas Black,  
tblack9@yahoo.com

**Federal Endangered Species:** Larry Winslett,  
winfog@windstream.net

**Federal Public Lands:** Shirl Parsons,  
kparsons@mindspring.com

**Historic Places/ Arch. Sites:** Brian Thomas,  
bthomas@trcsolutions.com

**Marine Species/Habitat:** Karen Grainey,  
karengrainey@bellsouth.net

**National Forest Issues:** *vacant*

**Nuclear Waste:** Stacey Kronquest,  
stacey@kronquest.com

**Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,  
scollier@mindspring.com

**Organic and Locally Grown Foods:** Bryan Hager,  
bhager@mindspring.com

**Population:** Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

**Rivers and Wetlands:** Keith Parsons,  
kparsons@mindspring.com

**Savannah Port:** Judy Jennings,  
judyjennings@comcast.net

**State Lands/Georgia DNR:** Phil Zinsmeister,  
pzinsmeister@oglethorpe.edu

**State Lands/Stone Mountain:** Larry Winslett,  
winfog@windstream.net

**Stop I-3:** Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

**Transportation:** David Emory,  
david.emory@gmail.com

**Waste/Recycling:** Larry Winslett,  
winfog@windstream.net

**Water Sentinels / Adopt-a-Stream:**  
Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

## Georgia Chapter Staff

### Chapter Director:

Colleen Kiernan, 404-607-1262 x.224  
colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

### Administrative Coordinator:

Genie Strickland, 404-607-1262 x.221  
genie.strickland@sierraclub.org

## National Staff

### Associate Press Secretary:

Jenna Garland, 404-607-1262 x.222  
jenna.garland@sierraclub.org

## Standing Meetings

### Inner City Outings

Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7 p.m., Chapter Office

### Fundraising Committee

Third Wednesday of the month. Contact Erin Wetty at ewetty@seyfarth.com for more info



# Local Groups

A great way to get involved in your Chapter is by joining and participating in a local group. Some groups take certain months off, so it's a good idea to email first. Each group has a website. For maps and additional information on each group, visit the website: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/local/>

## Centennial Group

*Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton*

**Chair:** Wolfgang Tiedtke,  
gacentexcom@gmail.com

**Outings Chair:** Bob Springfield,  
bob@bobspringfield.com

**Meetings:** 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions call Wolfgang Tiedtke at 770-973-7820.

## Coastal Group

*Serving Savannah & surrounding counties*

**Chair:** Steve Willis, snwillis@yahoo.com

**Conservation Chair:** Judy Jennings,  
judyjennings@comcast.net

**Outings Chair:** Steve Wagner,  
sjwgnr@hotmail.com

**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah

## Greater Gwinnett Group

*Serving Gwinnett Co.*

**Chair:** Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

**Conservation Chair:** Beth Remmes,  
bremmes@hotmail.com

**Outings Chair:** Jake Hardison,  
jake.hardison@ssa.gov

**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn 30047

## LaGrange Group

*Serving the LaGrange area*

**Chair:** Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

**Conservation Chair:** Nancy Green,  
mngreen@wirelesshometown.com

**Outings Chair:** Elizabeth Appleby,  
ecappleby@yahoo.com

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesdays; 6:30 pm welcome and refreshments / 7 pm program; St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 207 N. Greenwood St., LaGrange (no meetings June-August)

## Metro Atlanta Group

*Serving Atlanta, Dekalb, & South Fulton*

**Chair:** Gordon Draves,  
nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com

**Outings Chair:** Martin McConaughy  
mcmarty@bellsouth.net

**Conservation Chair:** Nancy Wylie,  
nancywylie@mindspring.com

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Episcopal Church of the Epiphany • 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. (between Atlanta and Decatur).

## Savannah River Group

*Serving Augusta & surrounding areas*

**Co-Chair:** Judy Gordon, Ph.D.,  
gordonjudith@att.net

**Co-Chair:** Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

**Conservation Chair:** Denice Traina,  
yboty@aol.com

**Outings Chair:** Cindy Annis, ctreehuggr@aol.com

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Church on Walton Way, Augusta at 7:30 pm.

## Regional Contacts

### LeConte Group/Athens & NE Ga.

Terry Jones, wolpers4@aol.com

### Forsyth County

Jim Callison, jimcallison@juno.com

### Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston\_f@mercer.edu

### North Ga. Conservation Group

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

### Valdosta

Brian Day, bjdav@valdosta.edu

## Georgia Chapter Office

743 East College Avenue, Suite B  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
404-607-1262 • FAX: 404-876-5260  
georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org

### Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

**office:** Our office is an easy 1-2-minute walk from the MARTA Avondale station (E7). We encourage you to take MARTA when possible. Exit the MARTA station towards the SOUTH PARKING LOT, located on the East College Ave side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams Street. Cross over Sams St. and the office is the building located right behind the convenience store. The office is the second door from Sams St. – Suite B.

## Stay Informed!

### SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:

<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/>

GA Chapter Outings:

<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings/>

GA Chapter Email Lists Site:

<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/lists/>

### EMAIL LISTS

Subscribe to a Georgia Chapter e-mail list. Just send an e-mail to:

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

GA-ENERGY-FORUM (Smart Energy Solutions Committee)

GA-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:

[http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP\\_GA\\_Signup](http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup)

Visit the Ga. Chapter web page and click on "Local Groups" for info on local groups e-mail lists.

## Looking for a Group near your home?

The Georgia Chapter website (<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/>) contains a map showing the locations of all Groups. Or, call the Chapter office at (404) 607-1262.



## Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next meeting is Sat., Sept. 18th at the Booher residence, Martinez, GA. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

## Outings & Events

Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. To find out more about what outings are being offered, please visit our website at <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>.

**Sunday, September 4**

### **Rabun Bald Day Hike**

**Location:** Rabun County

**Rated:** Strenuous

**Description:** This hike is to the top of the second highest peak in Georgia where with a short climb up a fire tower we will have a 360 degree view of the area (if clear). We will have lunch at the top to enjoy the view. Not a beginners hike. Good boots with lug soles are required. Contact Lee Thomas, (770)-458-3389



### **Brune to Headline Chapter Retreat**

Michael Brune, Executive Director of the National Sierra Club, will be our Keynote Speaker at the Georgia Chapter Retreat. He will speak at our Volunteer Awards Banquet on Saturday night, October 1, at Jekyll Island. This is shaping up to be a not-to-be missed event!

The Georgia Chapter Sierra Club 2011 Retreat will be the weekend of September 30 to October 2 on beautiful Jekyll Island, the island that has been preserved for the people of Georgia. We'll explore the island, learning about the birds, sea turtles and Georgia's State Mammal, the Right Whale, all of which rely on this island and the sea offshore for their survival.

There will be plenty of opportunities to go dolphin watching, biking, kayaking, birding, kite-flying, etc. We also have a variety of workshops planned where you can learn more about how you, as a Sierra Club member, can become more involved in the variety of Conservation initiatives of the Georgia Chapter. This year there will also be a large contingent of members from the South Carolina and Florida Chapters, so that we can work together on regional issues.

**Registration and Facilities:** We have 3 choices of lodging for the weekend: dorm rooms at Jekyll 4H Center, camping at the campground on the north end of the island, and plenty of motels. Price includes the following: Registration, lodging (except for motel), meals (breakfast, lunch and banquet on Saturday plus breakfast on Sunday) and all workshops. To register, please go online to the Georgia Chapter website, [www.georgia.sierraclub.org](http://www.georgia.sierraclub.org) or call Genie Strickland at 404-607-1262, ext. 221.

**- Terry Jones**