

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB • OCT / NOV / DEC 2018



**GEORGIA TRAILBLAZERS** • CHAPTER & GROUP ELECTIONS ISSUE • BALLOTS DUE NOVEMBER 15 • PLUS • MARTA FOR GWINNETT • #OURWILDGA • CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL ACROSS ATLANTA • LOCAL GROUP UPDATES • AND MORE

#### FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

1983 is a year that holds special significance in our country for many reasons. It's the year the first cellular network was brought online in Chicago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s holiday was officially established by the U.S. Senate, Georgia Power announced their "homes of the future," initiative, which would feature computer-



controlled thermostats, energy efficient appliances, and solar PV technology, and it's the year the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club was formed.

This special date set us on a trail that has led to many milestones and victories for our natural environment and the people involved in our movement, a trail that has continued for 35 years. Now is time for us to celebrate that work. Our 35th year as an organization marks the start of a new chapter tradition of recognizing the trailblazing leaders of our past and those who are setting the trails for our future. This October, we will honor our beloved volunteers for leading the way on clean air, land, and water, for protecting our forests, coast, wetlands, and mountains, and for investing themselves in building a sustainable, equitable environment for every Georgian.

I feel such gratitude to those leaders, volunteers, and staff who came before and who helped make the Georgia Sierra Club what it is today. I am so honored to be a part of this legacy. I hope you will join us as we commemorate this occasion with our Georgia Trailblazers Reception on Thursday, October 25 (event details on page 3). We could not have done it without you, and your continued support is crucial to help us continue our trailblazing work this year and in the years to come!

*Ted Terry* Chapter director

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## **GEORGIA SIERRAN**

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#### **Editorial Team**

Brenda Cargin, Ted Terry, Andrea Cervone, Sarah Zaslaw, Wanda Arthur, Emily Mattison, Bettye Harris, Zack Loehle

#### **Submissions & Volunteering**

Articles: Send materials to gasierran@gmail.com. Maximum word length: 750 words with one high-resolution digital photo (200 dpi). For more information, or to join the committee, email gasierran@gmail.com.

#### Address Changes

Send address changes to Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743 East College Ave., Suite B, Decatur, GA 30030 or by email to: address.changes@sierraclub.org

#### Subscriptions

Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for Chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$12.00 annually for nonmembers.

#### Visit the Georgia Chapter Office

Our office is a 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 E. College Ave side (currently under construction). Once outside, proceed down the temporary stairway and turn left towards Sams Street. Cross over Sams Street and the office is the building located behind the bakery. Look for the playground behind the building. Enter the fenced gate. The office is the second door from Sams Street on the right.

**On the Cover** The Appalachian Trail

## FALL 2018 CHAPTER NEWS

## GET UP TO SPEED WITH THE GEORGIA CHAPTER

## Welcome to our new Sierra Student Coalition Organizer

Welcome to our new Sierra Student Coalition organizer, Eliza Stevenson! Eliza is a Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow and will be at the Chapter for a year. She is very excited to be working with students around the state!

Eliza grew up in Asheville, North Carolina.



She graduated from Guilford College in May 2018 with degrees in Environmental Studies and Psychology, and with minors in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Dance. Eliza has worked as an Environmental Educator

Pictured: Eliza Stevenson

at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, led many backpacking trips, and is a certified Wilderness First Responder. Eliza is very excited to be working as the Georgia Sierra Club's Sierra Student Coalition Organizer this year.

## Welcome to our Political Organizing Team

We would also like to give a warm welcome to Noelia Franceschi, political organizer field supervisor, and our new political organizers, Tim Carey, Simeon Ike, Imani Maxberry, and Juliane Perry!

Our organizing team will be with us through Election Day on November 6th, working tirelessly to get out the word about our endorsed candidates and environmental champions. If you are interested in volunteering with our canvassing team, please contact Noelia at noelia.franceschi@sierraclub.org.



Pictured (left to right): Organizers Simeon Ike, Juliane Perry, Tim Carey, Imani Maxberry, and Chapter Director Ted Terry

### Celebrate 35 Years with Us

This fall marks our 35th anniversary! We are commemorating the occasion with a new tradition. We will be recognizing the trailblazing leaders of our past and those who are setting the trails for our future. We will honor our beloved volunteers for



leading the way on clean air, land, and water, for protecting our forests, coast, wetlands, and mountains, and for investing themselves in building a sustainable, equitable environment for every Georgian.

Join us at the beautiful rooftop terrace of the Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Law Firm on Thursday, October 25 as we recognize and honor a group of remarkable Trailblazers that have truly made a difference across our state. Your attendance and support of this event are crucial to help us continue our trailblazing work this year and in the years to come. Thank you in advance for investing in a future Georgia we will all be proud to call home.

We hope you'll join us! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit gasierraclub35.eventbrite.com.

## CHAPTER DIRECTORY

#### LOCAL GROUP CONTACTS

#### **CENTENNIAL GROUP**

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#### Legislative

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#### Political

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#### **Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL)**

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#### Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream

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#### **VOLUNTEER ISSUE LEADERS**

For a **complete** listing of Conservation Committee Chairs and Issue Leaders, please visit: sierraclub.org/georgia/directory.

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Gwinnett Group Delegate Dan Friedman dan3688@gmail.com ◆ (404) 610-5770 Human Resources Chair

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Kairos Digital Engagement Fellow Shireen Nori ◆ (404) 607-1262 x233 shireen.nori@sierraclub.org

#### NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTACTS

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Sierra Student Coalition Eliza Stevenson ◆ eliza.stevenson@sierraclub.org

## **FALL 2018** GROUP NEWS

#### **CENTENNIAL GROUP**

SERVING COBB, CHEROKEE, & NORTH FULTON

## A Busy Summer

**BY BETTYE HARRIS** 

#### **CANDIDATE FORUM A SUCCESS**

Among the highlights of our busy summer was a "Meet the Candidates Forum" we hosted on July 5 at Life University. Chapter ExCom leader Jeff Schoenberg was our moderator,

ed a PSC candi-



and guests includ- Pictured: Chapter ExCom member Jeff Schoenberg and State Senate District 32 candidate Christine Triebsch date, three Cobb

Commission candidates, and several Cobb area state legislative candidates. We were pleased to have a large audience turnout, local media coverage, and enthusiastic feedback. Thanks to our political committee for organizing this first-ever Centennial event.

#### **RETURN TO EAST COBBER**

We were glad to march again this year on

September 15 for the annual and ever-popular East Cobber Parade & Festival. Our marchers donned hiking gear, rode bikes, and drove the Bell Family's new electric vehicle in the parade.



Pictured: Centennial members in the East Cobber Parade & Festival

We also had a tent and table during the festival, where we introduced our programs and activities to visitors.

monthly meetings

Our guest speaker

on September 6.

Hunter, the new

of Truly Living

Well Center for

Natural Urban

Agriculture (TLW). TLW

comprises an

innovative and

Executive Director

was Carol J.

#### **MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS**

After a hiatus in August, we resumed our



Pictured: Carol J. Hunter, Execdiverse team of utive Dir. of Truly Living Well

growers and educators with unique community-building skills that they implement through urban agriculture. We learned about the important differences TLW makes in our community and hope to further explore, support, and promote its programs and initiatives.

Join us on October 4 for the return of

our October Sustainability Summit, which promotes conversation and learning about sustainability issues. We will also use this summit to explore links between environmental quality and sustainable, healthy, safe communities for all. This will be the fourth summit in our series and will be held at the East Cobb Government Center, 4400 Lower Roswell Road, Marietta 30068 at 7 PM. Exhibits and sustainable refreshments will be featured.

Our November 1 meeting will be held at 7 PM in our regular room at Life University. Speaker and details to be announced. Finally, make sure to mark your calendars for our annual Holiday Potluck Party & Auction, which will be held on December 6 at 6:30 PM. The party will take place at the lovely Avery Gallery near the Square in Marietta. Special thanks to Shae and Gwenda Avery for letting us use their gallery again this year. More details on this event to follow. If you are interested in volunteering to help during the party, please email Lynn Walston at lynnwalston22@yahoo.com and Bettye Harris at bettyecharris@gmail.com.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS**

Please remember to vote in the Centennial Group and Georgia Chapter Executive Committee elections. Special thanks to our volunteers who agreed to stand for election: Linda Bell, Kyle Rinaudo, and Andrea Searles.

#### **GROUP INFORMATION**

**Monthly Meetings**: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions please contact Lynn Walston.

Visit our webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/centennial

#### Join us on Facebook at

facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club

#### GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

## Gwinnett's Future is on the Ballot

#### BY DAN FRIEDMAN

The November general elections will offer Gwinnett a stark choice: continue as we have or change to accommodate the future. At the state level, Stacey Abrams' positions on the environment, inclusion, and transit make her the clear choice for Georgia's next governor. Lindy Miller and Dawn Randolph bring a new vision for a sustainable future that includes clean energy, better jobs, and lower utility bills to the Public Service Commission.

In Gwinnett, we are working with County Commission candidates Ben Ku and Marlene Fosque to modernize the County Commission. Ben Ku brings financial and technical skills to his candidacy and supports transit to reduce congestion, assist the mobility of seniors, and improve infrastructure. Marlene Fosque supports Gwinnett joining MARTA and leveraging technology to provide better services and communication to Gwinnett citizens.

On the national level, District 7 U.S. House candidate Carolyn Bourdeaux supports transit as she recognizes increased commute costs and times. Her support of diversity and education make her the choice of the future for Gwinnett. Our members are working on these campaigns and encourage Gwinnett citizens to support these candidates with your votes, time, and donations.

## GROUP INFORMATION

**Monthly Meetings**: 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Road, Lilburn.

#### Visit our webpage at

sierraclub.org/georgia/Gwinnett

#### SERVING ATLANTA, DEKALB, & SOUTH FULTON

## Take Action this Fall!

#### BY NINA DUTTON

Election Day is coming up quickly, so make sure your vote is counted! Visit bit.ly/MVP-GA to make sure you are registered to vote, request an absentee ballot, find your early and election day voting locations, or view your sample ballot.

Note these important dates and spread the word:

- Tuesday, October 9: last day to register or update registration to vote in this year's general election
- Monday, October 15: early voting begins
- Tuesday, November 6: general election day

The governor's race is critical, but there are important races all the way down the ballot too. Don't forget to vote in the Public Service Commissioner races at the end of your ballot. The Public Service Commission (PSC) is a group of five officials elected statewide tasked with regulating utilities, including Georgia Power. Members of the PSC can determine the rate Georgia Power customers pay for the electricity we use, as well as whether Georgia Power generates electricity from solar and wind or if it will keep relying on fossil fuels and nuclear power.

The Georgia Sierra Club is proud to have endorsed candidates in many races on the November 6 ballots. If you are interested in learning who your Sierra Club endorsed candidates are, visit th Georgia Chapter's political webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/political. Are you a Sierra Club member ready to volunteer to support endorsed candidates in your area? Email our group chair, Nina Dutton, at nddutton@gmail.com.

For a comprehensive and useful voter's catalog (complete with important dates, information on elected positions, and interesting history), check out the Atlanta Jobs with Justice 2018 election catalog at bit.ly/VWJGAElections.

#### RECENT MEETING REPORTS

On July 10, we took a walk through the Ashford Forest Preserve in Brookhaven. Metro Atlanta Group executive committee member Eddie Ehlert and Ken Yates guided us along trails through the park as they pointed out highlights, including the headwaters of a tributary of North Peachtree Creek, unfurled the history of the land and nearby areas, and explained how the North DeKalb Greenspace Alliance and other advocates won a decades-long campaign to protect the land from development.

We did not have a regular meeting in August, but instead partnered with the Georgia Chapter RAIL Committee on Wednesday, September 19 to co-host a panel discussion event about transit expansion in Atlanta.



Pictured: RAIL Co-Chair Tejas Kotak (panel moderator), Kyle Keahey, Sherry Williams, Angel Poventud, and Betty Willis on September 19

In 2016, Atlanta voters overwhelmingly approved a half-penny sales tax to fund the larg-

est transit investment in our city in forty years. Earlier this year, MARTA released the proposed "More MARTA" expansion and improvement plan and gathered public input on the proposal through meetings and an online survey. At our presentation and panel discussion, we learned about the proposed "More MARTA" plan and joined a conversation with panelists representing a variety of perspectives on the plan. The speakers and panelists were Kyle Keahey, More MARTA program manager, Sherry Williams of Georgia STAND-UP, Angel Poventud of BeltLine Rail Now, and Betty Willis of Emory University and Clifton Community Partnership. After the event, we encouraged attendees to contact MARTA and other officials with their opinions on how the final plan should be formed. The MARTA Board votes on a final "More MARTA" plan on October 4.

#### RECENT OUTINGS

Our outings chair Max Brown was busy this summer with hikes at Cascade Springs Nature Preserve (June 16, co-led with West Atlanta Watershed Alliance), Arabia Mountain (July 21), and Boundary Waters Park (August 21).

Max is highlighting some of the interesting and beautiful parks we have in our metro area, with the hope that Sierrans who explore and enjoy these parks will be all the more inspired to protect our environment. Find out about upcoming outings at our monthly meetings, on our Facebook page, or on the Chapter's online calendar.

#### A D O P T - A - S T R E A M M O N I T O R I N G

Our Adopt-a-Stream activities focus on Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park. For biological monitoring, we need many eyes to find the macroinvertebrate critters found in the creek.

The next chance to get your feet wet (figuratively or literally!) on a day with both biological and chemical monitoring will be Saturday, December 15, from 10 AM – 12 PM. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 – 11 AM, and biological monitoring will take the full time. For information about chemical monitoring dates, call Larry Kloet at (404) 636-7226. For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at (404) 256-1172. Detailed directions are available at sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/adoptstream-program.

#### **GET INVOLVED!**

Want to pitch in by keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Would you like to help out at our meetings, plan events, join our political committee, or help get out the vote for elections this year? Please email our chair, Nina Dutton, at nddutton@gmail.com.

### GROUP INFORMATION

**Our Executive Committee Meetings** are open and generally held on the first Tuesday of the month (Athens Pizza, 7:30 p.m.). Contact Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail. com) for details.

**Monthly Meetings**: The Metro Atlanta Group typically meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic. Then we present info on how to take action on important issues. We have been meeting at the Georgia Chapter office, at 743 E. College Ave., Suite B, Decatur, GA, 30030 but the location is subject to change. Please join us at 7 p.m. to socialize and 7:30 p.m. for the program!

**Sign up for email updates** through the Georgia Chapter website (sierraclub.org/georgia) and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zipcode.

Visit our webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta

Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/sierraclubatl

#### LAGRANGE GROUP

#### SERVING THE LAGRANGE AREA

## Summer 2018 Wrap-Up by LAURA BREYFOGLE

#### SUMMER 2018 UPDATES

Our butterfly garden has been a success! It was

designed to attract a variety of butterflies but especially serve monarchs. In fact, we have applied for status as a Monarch Waystation from the Monarch Foundation. We recently spotted both monarch adults and caterpillars on



Pictured: A caterpillar in the La-Grange Group's butterfly garden

the tropical milkweed we planted! We'll be on the lookout for pupae. Thanks to Judy Lawrence and Mary Lou Dabbs for taking charge of this project and to Georgia Interfaith Power and Light for funding it.

Several of our members participated in the Peoples Climate Movement rally and march in Columbus on September 8. This day of solidarity was part of the events organized nationwide to draw attention to the need for climate action. The Columbus stop was organized by the Columbus Indivisible group and included speakers, tabling, and a march.

With much coaching from former Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan, we made a presentation to LaGrange City Council asking them to sign a resolution against providing ratepayer financial support of the most recent cost overrun for Plant Vogtle reactors 3 and 4. Though we did not receive a commitment, we did at least speak out for Sierra Club concerns. Vicky Hoover, a very focused and enthusiastic Sierra Club volunteer from the National Sierra Club office in Oakland, California, has been coaching us for several years on lobbying for the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Though there are currently 230 representatives who have cosigned the bill, it is stuck in the Natural Resources committee because the committee chairman is opposed to it. We have been lobbying our U.S. representative Drew Ferguson persistently for several years. Now the deadline is September 30 and we keep plugging away, always keeping in mind the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally."

#### WELCOME, CORAL DOUGLAS!

We are pleased to welcome an intern from LaGrange College, Coral Douglas! Coral is in the servant scholar program at LaGrange College and serves as student representative on the college's sustainability council. She has enthusiastically recruited more than 40 students to sign up for our email notifications and to team up for the upcoming West Point Lake Clean-Up event.



Pictured: LaGrange Group intern Coral Douglas

#### **GROUP INFORMATION**

**Monthly Meetings**: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 PM refreshments, 7 PM program, St. Mark's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 207 N. Greenwood St., LaGrange.

#### Visit our webpage at

sierraclub.org/georgia/lagrange

#### SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP

#### SERVING AUGUSTA & SURROUNDING AREAS

## Celebrating the Start of the Savannah River Group and 35 Years of the Georgia Chapter

#### BY LINDA MCBURNEY, CO-CHAIR

The idea for a Sierra Club group in Augusta began with Gene Weeks, a student in Judy Gordon's botany class at Augusta University. Gene asked Judy if she had heard of the Sierra Club, and while she had not previously heard of the organization, she was quite interested in its environmental focus. She and Gene then began attending Sierra Club meetings in Columbia, South Carolina, the closest local group to Augusta.

In 1981, Gene and Judy asked the national Sierra Club for a membership list of the Augusta area's surrounding counties. After reviewing the list, they decided that there were sufficient members that might support a local group, and so the Savannah River Group (SRG) was started.

From 1981 to 1989, Gene and Judy would switch off yearly as Group Chair while the other took on other positions. For a few years, there were



less than ten members in SRG, but they persevered. Today, we have 371 members. When SRG

was formed,

the Georgia

Chapter be-

longed to the

Pictured: Judy Gordon tending to the flowers in her garden

Georgia/Alabama Regional Chapter and held their meetings in Alabama. SRG chose to stay with the South Carolina Chapter because they financed and supported us in those early years. After Georgia split from the combined Georgia/Alabama Regional Chapter and became its own chapter, SRG then belonged to both Georgia and South Carolina Chapters and served on both Executive Committees. Eventually, SRG voted to affiliate with the Georgia Chapter only.

Gene moved from the Augusta area many years ago while Judy, having held practically every leadership position over the last 37 years, continues to be involved with SRG as a leader and an activist. Thanks to Judy and Gene for starting the Savannah River Group and keeping it active and growing so that there is an environmental voice in Augusta.



Pictured: Group Co-Chair Linda McBurney (left) and Judy Gordon (right)

#### **GROUP INFORMATION**

**Monthly Meetings**: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 PM., Unitarian Church on Walton Way, Augusta.

#### Visit our webpage at

sierraclub.org/georgia/savannah-river

#### COASTAL GROUP

serving savannah & surrounding counties
Upcoming Events

#### +October 11, 6:30-7:30pm

Join us to learn about how we can bring 100 percent clean energy to Savannah. **RSVP at bit.ly/CoastalOct2018** 

#### November 8, 6:30-7:30pm

Gather with friends and celebrate the holidays with yummy food and drink in the home of our friend Beth Kinstler. A lively game of team trivia is planned! **RSVP at bit.ly/CoastalNov2018** 

#### **GROUP INFORMATION**

Visit our webpage at sierraclub.org/georgia/coastal

Join us on Facebook at bit.ly/CoastalSCFB

JUL/AUG/SEP 2018 ◆

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### MARTA Referendum Comes to Gwinnett County

#### BY ZACK FOX LOEHLE

For the first time in 30 years, MARTA has the chance to expand into Gwinnett County. On August 1, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners voted in favor of a transit referendum that will take place in a March 2019 special election. If the referendum is successful, MARTA will assume operation of Gwinnett County's current bus service and expand heavy rail northwards along I-85. Ultimately, these changes would result in rail running as far as Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth and expanded local bus service throughout the county.

Throughout this year, the Georgia Sierra Club has been hard at work on transit expansion. From the passage of HB 930, a bill creating a regional transit authority, to the recent Gwinnett MARTA decision, we are beginning to see real successes in efforts to bring mass transit to Atlanta. Aside from organizing support for the recent Gwinnett Board of Commissioners MARTA vote, organizers from our Centennial Group have been working in Cobb County to lay the groundwork for a similar referendum in the coming years. Meanwhile, the More MARTA sales tax will allow for significant transit expansion inside the perimeter. As MARTA's board decides the best ways in which to use that new funding, the Georgia Sierra Club has been working to engage people from around the metro area in that process.

The Gwinnett referendum represents a significant change in the preferences of the northern Atlanta suburbs and a watershed moment for public transit in Atlanta. The county has stopped a northward MARTA expansion several times, most recently in 1990. But Gwinnett has been changing, growing younger, more diverse, and more populated (the county is rapidly approaching a population of one million). Gridlock and long commutes have helped change the collective attitude towards transit alternatives. Notably, corporations and young people consistently favor urban areas with mass transit. Thomasina Magbie, RAIL Committee co-chair, says that without adding public transportation,



Gwinnett is likely to lose major corporations. "It's a trickle-down effect," Magbie said, adding that without transit, "you're losing your brain trust in Gwinnett." These changing attitudes are tangible. In multiple public surveys, over 50% of county residents have been in favor of mass transit.

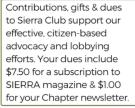
With the Gwinnett transit vote happening in the March 2019 special election, rather than the general election in November, the Georgia Sierra Club is planning a campaign to support its passage. "We're not going to be sitting on our hands until March," said Tejas Kotak, another RAIL Committee co-chair. The Georgia Sierra Club is also committed to ensuring that the new rail and bus routes are effective in supporting everyone in the county, particularly those in low-income communities. "Once the referendum is passed, we will be working with MARTA and Gwinnett County to make sure it is as equitable as possible," Kotak added.

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB

NAME		
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE		
EMAIL		
Check inclosed. Please r		Sierra Club

Enclose payment information and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES PRICE		
SPECIAL OFFER	\$15	
STANDARD SUPPORTING	\$39 \$75	
CONTRIBUTING	<u></u> \$150	
LIFE	\$1000	



F94QB 3400 1

SIERRA CLUB

#OurWildGA: Savannah Member "In Residence" at Smokies

## BY MATTHEW EMMER, COASTAL GROUP MEMBER

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park plays host to a select handful of artists each year for their Artist-In-Residency program. This October, the most visited national park will host one of our members from the Coastal Group.

Matthew Emmer is a photographer based in Savannah and will spend the entire month covering the picturesque fall foliage. He will also connect with park rangers and guests alike in open conversations discussing the delicate balance of accessibility to nature's beauty and the negative impact that can stem from millions of visitors each year.



Be sure to follow his time in the mountains by following his Instagram account @EmmerPhoto. If your travels take you to the Smokies this October, keep an eye out on the trails for our local artist and be sure to say "Hi!"

#### GET INVOLVED WITH #OURWILDGA:

**Check out our calendar for upcoming outings**: sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar

When you're outside exploring, don't forget to tag your photos with **#OurWildGA** and **#GASierraClub!** 

#### EQUITY



### Making Strides Towards Clean Energy for ALL

#### BY LYDIA ZEMMALI, SUMMER 2018 CLEAN ENERGY FOR ALL & SIERRA JUNTOS FELLOW

The Sierra Club sparked my enthusiasm from the first phone call: "You will be working on a Clean Energy Job Fair we are hosting in cooperation with the Latin American Association." I could not believe my ears. I would be coordinating with the nonprofit for whom I had interned the previous summer. My supervisor, Brenda Cargin, explained that this partnership was part of a larger effort by the Sierra Juntos Committee to create a more inclusive Sierra Club. It was clear to me then that the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club has been making real strides towards inclusivity by choosing the Latin American Association (LAA) as a community partner. Last summer, I saw firsthand how the LAA serves as a hub for the metro Atlanta Latino community, with over 40,000 people a year benefitting from the organization's job fairs, immigration services, Medicare renewals, college counseling, and more. Many members of the Latino community even get their first jobs through the LAA's employment center. Our

Clean Energy Job Fair initiative is the first of its kind at the Latin American Association, and it is certainly timely.

The City of Atlanta has made a commitment to be exclusively reliant on clean energy by 2035, and planning has begun to determine how that will be achieved. My participation this summer in both the Sierra Juntos and Clean Energy For All committees has shown me that the Georgia Sierra Club is working to make it a priority that all of our community reaps all of the benefits of a clean energy future. These efforts are not limited to fighting for clean air and more MARTA. This work must also include equitable access to employment in the expanding renewable energy sector.

As more businesses and homes install solar panels and invest in innovative insulation techniques and smart home technology, there will be a growing number of jobs to fill. The Clean Energy Job Fair is one effort to ensure members of the Latino community in Atlanta are better



Pictured: Lydia Zemmali, CEFA & Sierra Juntos Fellow

equipped for and connected to these opportunities. Come this November, the Sierra Club and the Latin American Association will be connecting job seekers to apprenticeship programs and employment opportunities in solar panel installation, energy efficiency, and large-scale recycling. Although I will unfortunately be back at school when the job fair takes place, I am proud to have been able to support a partnership of two organizations that I greatly admire.

Renewable energy is the new slate upon which we must imagine our future. Solar and wind power, expanded transit, and air free from pollutants will help guarantee bright new possibilities, relieving Atlantans from their current burdens of traffic troubles, code red smog alerts, and exorbitant energy bills. Forging relationships like this one between the Georgia Sierra Club and the Latin American Association will be a vital part of ensuring our 100 percent clean energy future is an equitable one.



Your IRA was always designed to be used in the future.



ensure the future.

### YOU CAN PUT YOUR IRA TO WORK FOR THE PLANET AND SAVE ON YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR

An IRA Charitable Rollover provides an opportunity to make a charitable gift to count toward your required minimum distribution and potentially reduce your taxes - even if you are taking the standard deduction for 2018.

If you are at least 70 ½ years old, you can now transfer up to \$100,000 directly to the Sierra Club Foundation from your IRA without paying income tax on the withdrawal.

Questions? Contact Cory Tenbrink at (541) 227-4294 or cory.tenbrink@sierraclub.org

Please note the Sierra Club Foundation does not offer legal, tax, or financial planning advice. You are encouraged to consult your own legal counsel, tax advisor, and/or financial planner.

The Foundation for a Healthy Planet. SierraClubFoundation.org



## Georgia Sierra Club 2018 General Election Endorsements

Election Day is coming up quickly, so make sure you are prepared! Note these important dates and spread the word:

• **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9**: last day to register or update registration to vote in general election

- MONDAY, OCTOBER 15: early voting begins
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6: general election day

#### GOVERNOR

Stacey Abrams\*

SECRETARY OF STATE

John Barrow\*

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charlie Bailey\*

#### PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Lindy Miller\* Dawn Randolph\*

#### **STATE SENATE**

Lester Jackson, SD-2 Jen Jordan, SD-6\* Emmanuel Jones, SD-10 Ed Harbison, SD-15 Valencia Seay, SD-34 Donzella James, SD-35 Nan Orrock, SD-36 Horacena Tate, SD-38 Nikema Williams, SD-39 Sally Harrell, SD-40\* Steve Henson, SD-41 Elena Parent, SD-42

#### **STATE HOUSE**

Mary Frances Williams, HD-37\* David Wilkerson, HD-38 Erick Allen, HD 40\* Teri Anulewicz, HD-42

Luisa Wakeman, HD-43\* Shea Roberts, HD-52\* Sheila Jones, HD-53 'Able Mabel' Thomas, HD-56 Rhonda Burnough, HD-77 Mike Wilensky, HD-79\* Matthew Wilson, HD-80\* Scott Holcomb, HD-81\* Mary Margaret Oliver, HD-82 Michele Henson, HD-86 Bee Nguyen, HD-89 Dar'shun Kendrick, HD-93 Pete Marin, HD-96 Sam Park, HD-101\* Dona McLeod, HD-105 Deborah Gonzalez, HD-117\* Johnathan Wallace, HD-119\* Shelia Clark Nelson, HD-125 Bob Trammell, HD-132\* Carolyn Hugley, HD-136 Debbie Buckner, HD-137

#### **COBB COUNTY COMMISSION**

Caroline Holko, District 3\*

#### **GWINNETT COUNTY COMMISSION**

Ben Ku, District 2\* Marlene Fosque, District 4\*

#### **US CONGRESS**

CD-1 Lisa Ring\* CD-4 Hank Johnson CD-5 John Lewis CD-6 Lucy McBath\* CD-7 Carolyn Bourdeaux\* CD-13 David Scott

## VOTE YES ON GEORGIA OUTDOOR

#### **STEWARDSHIP AMENDMENT 1**

Vote YES in support of the Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act (GOSA). Learn more at georgiaoutdoorstewardship.org

\* Candidate is running with opposition in the general election

## CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS

#### GEORGIA CHAPTER

## Justin Brightharp

LOCATION: LAWRENCEVILLE MEMBER SINCE: 2018

I'm Justin Brightharp and I have been a member of the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter since 2018. My experience



with the Sierra Club has been through my work at the City of Atlanta where I worked on deploying zero- and low-emission vehicles. The Georgia Chapter supported the policy changes happening for zero-emission vehicles at the City. The largest project I worked on with the group was educating the City of Atlanta through Neighborhood Planning Units and workshops of the 100 percent clean energy goal in 2017. In college, I participated in rallies supporting President Obama's coal emissions standards and the Climate March as well.

If I am selected to join the Chapter's Executive Committee, I will use my experience and current work on zero-emission vehicles and transportation, plus my passion for the environment. I believe that the Sierra Club-Georgia Chapter has opportunities to be a space for sustainability and how it interacts with technology. As technology continues to progress rapidly, I believe that the Sierra Club can serve as a facilitator to discuss ideas where technology enhances the message of the environment and the natural space is celebrated and protected. That celebration and protection can be done through developing programs around environmental equity, so others can learn about spreading the environmental message across a broader plane.

## Shelby Buso

LOCATION: **DECATUR** MEMBER SINCE: **2011** 

I very much appreciate the opportunity to be considered for the Georgia Sierra Club



Executive Committee. As a Director of another nonprofit, I can certainly appreciate the amount of volunteer time necessary to function at a grassroots level. The Georgia Sierra Club has always impressed upon me how important it is to live the mantra of thinking globally while acting locally.

My first experience with the Georgia Sierra Club was canvassing for the Beltline when it was just a dream. Atlanta has come a long way in pushing the envelope to define sustainability in our region. I have worked at the city and state level to continue rethinking what it means to be "green," specifically in development practices. While my professional work with the U.S. Green Building Council is focused primarily on the energy sector and the environmental impacts of the built environment, my educational background in conservation and wildlife management remains an itch that needs scratching. I am interested in using my nonprofit experience, my advocacy training through a juris doctorate and master's degree of environmental law and policy, and my love for community development from the ground up to support the work of the Georgia Sierra Club in 2019.

## Nancy Daves

LOCATION: **ATLANTA** MEMBER SINCE: **2016** 

I moved to Atlanta two and a half years ago after retiring from NOAA's

Fisheries Service working on issues of domestic and international marine conservation. Examples of accomplishments during my career include establishing a structure for constituent groups to



provide input to the implementation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, coordinating all agency activities concerning international wildlife trade, and the initiation of a capacity-building program for developing countries to improve marine conservation.

I have been thrilled with the progressive issues and politics in which I have been able to participate in my new home. Because of my interest in the environment, the Sierra Club was one of the first organizations I joined, becoming a member in 2016. At the local level, I have coordinated the Metro Atlanta Group's efforts to interview and endorse candidates during the Atlanta City Council election in 2017. I have also participated in get-out-the-vote efforts.

I have also been active in environmental and civic engagement since my move to Atlanta, resulting in my appointment to the governing boards of Georgia InterFaith Power and Light, Tybee Island Marine Science Center and New Georgia PowerPAC, a Georgia Women's Political Action Committee. I also serve on advisory boards to the College of Arts and Sciences and the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience of Stetson University.

All these activities and accomplishments will prepare me to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee.

## Seth Gunning

LOCATION: **ROSWELL** MEMBER SINCE: **2011** 



Thanks to the Georgia Sierra Club community for

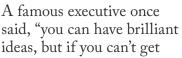
allowing me to re-introduce myself. My name is Seth Gunning. Like all of you, I am an environmental and social justice advocate. I am honored to serve as the current Secretary of the Georgia Chapter. I hope to continue my tenure on the Chapter Executive Committee and support our strategic vision and the sustainable growth of chapter fundraising in order to win our ambitious conservation goals.

After earning a degree in anthropology and sociology from Valdosta State University, I dedicated my professional life to serving people and organizing to protect the planet. I worked with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) to build the climate movement in the Southeast, with the Presbyterian Church (USA) to help faith-based initiatives working to eliminate food insecurity and spur economic development in traditionally marginalized communities, and with the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign as its Georgia Organizer from 2011 to 2014. In that role, I had the privilege of working with our members from around the state to end the development of new coal plants in Georgia, push regulators to approve Georgia Power's first large-scale solar energy program, and pass the historic Clean Power Plan to protect the climate for future generations.

I currently work as a solar consultant with one of our state's largest residential and small commercial solar companies and am passionate about making clean energy accessible. In my spare time, I am woodworking and exploring our planet with my pup Rylee.

## Jordan Johnson

LOCATION: ATLANTA MEMBER SINCE 2018



them across, your ideas won't get you anywhere." The art of communications is essential and undoubtedly one of the most important factors in pushing the work of any organization forward. I am running to serve on the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee to strengthen the communications efforts of the team, and effectively support media and messaging needs both internally and externally.

I am a fervent supporter of the Sierra Club. I have actively worked on campaigns and content for the Georgia Chapter and beyond. Currently, I serve as the communications manager for the Mayor's Office of Resilience. In this role, I work on a wide range of environmental policy and programming. I work with city officials and environmental specialists to generate content on electric vehicles, waste diversion, urban agriculture, clean energy, water and energy efficiency. Specifically, with the Sierra Club I have directly worked with the Sierra Club Foundation, Sierra Club's national Ready for 100 campaign, and our local 100ATL campaign. I have direct experience with stakeholder engagement through my work in the White House in the Office of Public Engagement.

Working with various organizations such as the National Black Farmers association concerning urban and rural agriculture and Viacom Media Networks in collaboration with Al Gore encouraging millennials to get involved in the fight against climate change and protecting the environment. I hope to serve the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club with adroitness and efficacy.

## **Ruthie Norton**



LOCATION: ATLANTA MEMBER SINCE: 2018

Protecting and exploring Georgia's ecosystems is a priority for me and

my family. I am currently on an extended road trip with my family exploring vast and diverse wilderness across the country. Whether kayaking through the Cohutta wilderness, hiking the trails around the wild and scenic Chattooga River, or serving in a professional capacity to mitigate climate impacts in our built environment, Georgia is home and where I am invested.

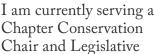
Environmental protection and advocacy are critical with current politics. My recent position as Deputy Director for Sustainability with the City of Atlanta has put me in a vital position to influence clean energy and petroleum-free transportation. Notably, I have significantly electrified the City's fleet and passed nationally rec-

ognized policy to drive electric transportation. I have served on boards to revitalize creek banks with the removal of invasive species and implementation of multi-use trails. I have designed and executed the country's largest municipal energy savings performance contract, reducing the City of Atlanta's energy use by a projected 18%. Further, I have leveraged relationships with residents, businesses, non-profits, academic institutions, and government entities to employ innovative funding strategies, garner support, and evoke participation.

If elected, I intend to participate heavily in the conservation campaign committees, especially as it pertains to energy and transportation. Inviting new families and communities to explore our wilderness is also a core value to which I will contribute. I value Sierra Club's accomplishments and ask that you allow me to serve with you.

## Mark Woodall

LOCATION: WOODLAND MEMBER SINCE: 1989



I am currently serving as

Chair. Other positions held include six years as Chapter Chair.

The Sierra Club has a critical role to play in stopping catastrophic climate change and saving democracy. In view of the almost constant attacks of the Trump administration on clean air and water and national monuments and parks, it is easy to become discouraged. Rather than despair, there are many ways we can make progress here in Georgia. We have great opportunities to expand mass transit and the demand for 100% clean energy. We can protect our national forests and work to expand our state and local park systems.

If elected to ExCom, I will work to support our critical conservation efforts, increase ways for our members to get involved and enlist more Georgians to our effort. I would appreciate your vote.

## Linda Bell

It has been an exciting two years for me on the Centennial Executive Committee. We have worked on several important issues and I have been proud to be a part of those efforts. Our original group of Centennial members concerned about the 2008 Cobb Park Bond issue morphed into the Cobb Parks Coalition and after a year of showing up and speaking at commissioner meetings, the commission voted to issue a bond for \$27.5 million for parkland! Likewise, Centennial members interested in expanded transit options for Cobb County have formed the Transit for Cobb group and are regularly meeting to further those objectives.

I have also enjoyed being the Political and Legislative Chair for the Centennial group as well as being on the Chapter Political Committee. We recently held a Candidate Forum and are actively interviewing local candidates for possible Sierra Club endorsement. In our present political environment, helping to elect environmental champions is critical.

I would be pleased to continue on the Centennial Executive Committee.

## Kyle Rinaudo

I am a Cobb County native and a recent graduate of Georgetown University. In 2018, I was the youngest candidate for Georgia state office, running to represent Acworth and Kennesaw in Georgia's House of Representatives.

A percussionist, runner, and music educator, I have always invested my spare time in my community and I continue to support progressive campaigns across the county. I ran for office to bring more environmentally sustainable policies to our state, including transit expansion, energy conservation, renewable energy investments, fuel emissions standards, and the growth of green space. I would be honored to serve on the Executive Committee to continue working on these issues and to make a change in our community and our state.

## **Andrea Searles**

Within the last two years, I have addressed the needs of our community by supporting the

transit issues in Cobb County. I have worked with our elected government officials and researched sustainable energy. I would like to continue working with the Executive Committee because I still believe that "to improve your community you must be active in the community." Along with being an active Sierra Club volunteer, I am affiliated with the Turner Chapel AME Missionary Society, Georgia Community Coalition, GCC, Cobb County Master Gardeners, HABESHA Urban Gardeners, and Atlanta Christian Cursillo.

#### GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

## **Tristan Fernades**

I am a graduate of Georgia State University with a degree in Political Science. I have worked for Representative Sam Park at the Georgia Capitol and was Campaign Manager for Ben Ku for County Commissioner. I am also President of the Gwinnett County Young Democrats. I want to make Gwinnett a better place so that I can one day live in a sustainable community that helps all people equally.

Our society and environment are at great peril in these times and it is important that we all step up to do what we can to change the downward spiral of a whirlpool that threatens to engulf us. The Sierra Club provides many avenues for us to work toward improving our society and world and I am thankful to be a part of this organization. I look forward to the opportunity to be a part of the Gwinnett group Executive Committee to try and help further the critical work of the Sierra Club.

## Gloria Hallen

In my fifteen-plus years as a Sierra Club member, I have watched the Sierra Club work to expand efforts to protect our environment. I have helped give all of the opportunities possible to connect with it.

## **Thomas Yun**

I have worked on many environmental justice issues, and I tend to focus on local matters. These days, much of my energy relates to sustainable urban farming.

#### LAGRANGE GROUP

### Mary Lou Dabbs

I've been a Sierra Club member since 2002, and have been active in outings and events like West Point Lake clean-up work days. More recently, I have worked with local community members to encourage and facilitate the beginning of curbside recycling in the city of LaGrange. My interests are gardening, environmental sustainability, and everything outdoors. My previous volunteer experience includes more than 20 years working with Literacy Volunteers of America and various roles at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

### **Coral Douglas**

I am a junior at LaGrange College, majoring in music and business with minors in marketing design and servant leadership. I have always been fascinated by conservation and environmental practices. I grew up in a wholly environmentalist family, with my grandfather being a pioneer of battery technology in the early 1950s, and my father being a conservationist in the marine biology field. I grew up hearing about the perils of long lines and overfishing, let alone the malpractices of businesses dealing with oceanic conservation. From this, I developed my own passion for beneficial environmental practices. I am a passionate believer that we can reduce our negative impact on this earth while being able to work towards leaving a better place than we were given. I'm passionate about working in a team to be able to impact this earth on a larger level. Thank you for your consideration!

### **Morton Reed**

My career as an environmental engineer began at Vanderbilt University with a PhD in Chemical and Environmental Engineering. I have a professional engineer's license and water laboratory certification plus erosion control certification in Georgia.

I have been fortunate to work in various energy projects, such as biodiesel projects, TVA coal-fired power plant air emission controls, coal gasification plants, alternate fuels, large solar projects, hydroelectric power, and pumped storage. I have worked on several watershed projects and monitoring projects, served on the Columbus Environmental Committee, drafted the Surface Water Assessment Plan for the new Fort Benning Water Plant, and maintained the operation of the Lake Oliver real time monitoring system. I have also worked on algae monitoring for West Point Lake, Lake Oliver, and Lake Eufaula.

I have taught various engineering and science courses at several colleges, schools and universities. I am currently working with Alabama Water Watch and Auburn University on their Moore's Creek watershed project in Chambers County, which will involve Point University students.

#### METRO ATLANTA GROUP

### **Eddie Ehlert**

I have been a member of the Club since the early 1990s and have been the Political Chair since 2009. I have been a member of the Metro Atlanta Group ExCom and Chapter ExCom at various points since 2010 as well. Since January 2017, I have been a member of the National Sierra Club Political Team and am liaison to most of the states in the Southeast.

My day job is owning and operating auto repair shops (MazdOnly and ToyOnly) so my understanding of the crucial importance for reduction of emissions and appropriate protection of stormwater runoff is an intrinsic part of my daily life. Zero-emission vehicles, ultra low-emission vehicles and low-emission vehicles are entirely necessary if we intend to continue a pattern of individual transportation.

Over the last six years, I have been deeply involved in bringing a 32-acre tract of forest into permanent conservation and public control in Brookhaven for public passive recreation. I'm also a paddler, boater, and am involved in protection of the waters in Lake Lanier as well as everything downstream.

Protecting the environment we all share is a goal I believe in, work for and live out.

## CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS

Support democracy in the Sierra Club by taking the time to vote. The Georgia Chapter ExCom election is open to ALL members. To vote, follow the easy steps outlined here.

#### **Chapter Voting**

ALL members of the Georgia Chapter are eligible to vote for a bylaw amendment to improve chapter voting procedures and may vote for up to three (3) Chapter candidates and complete the ballot on page 23. You will find the Chapter candidate statements on pages 17-19. All members are STRONGLY encouraged to vote on the proposed change in bylaws which is being proposed to improve our election process. Please note- by skipping the election, you are effectively voting no.

#### **Group Voting**

You may also vote in ONE of the group elections. You will find the group candidate statements for the Centennial, Greater Gwinnett, LaGrange, and Metro Atlanta Groups on pages 20-21.

Not all groups are using the Georgia Sierran for their election ballots. If your group is not listed, please contact your group leadership (see contacts on pages 4-5) to inquire about your group Executive Committee election.

#### **Joint Membership Voting**

If there are two names on your mailing label, then you have a joint membership and therefore get two votes. One person listed on the label will vote in column "A," while the other person will vote in column "B."

#### **Complete Your Ballot**

After voting, place the entire page into an envelope. The page must contain your mailing label, which we need to verify your membership. After your ballot is verified, your label will be removed to ensure anonymity during counting.

#### Mail or Deliver Your Ballot

Your ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on November 15, 2018. Mail to: Georgia Sierra Club Elections 743 East College Ave., Ste. B Decatur, GA 30030

#### **Questions?**

For questions regarding the Executive Committee elections, please call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262, or email georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org.

#### **Ballot Verification and Counting**

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee on Thursday, November 15, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or send a representative to do so.

#### **REMEMBER:**

If there is one name on your mailing label, please **vote in column "A" only**. If there are two names on your mailing label, **one should vote in column "A" and the other in column "B."** 

Everyone may vote for candidates for Georgia Chapter, and candidates for **no more than one** Group.

Vote for up to the number of candidates indicated below. If too many boxes are checked in either column, **the ballot will be declared invalid**.

**Detach and mail the entire ballot page.** Make sure your mailing label is still attached to the back.

Place ballot in an envelope and mail to the Georgia Chapter office at the address below. Ballots must be received no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2018.

#### MAIL BALLOTS TO:

Georgia Sierra Club Elections 743 East College Ave., Ste. B Decatur, GA 30030

# CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS BALLOT

#### **REMEMBER:**

If there is one name on your mailing label, please **vote in column "A" only**. If there are two names on your mailing label, **one should vote in column "A" and the other in column "B."** 

**Everyone** may vote on the bylaw amendment and the candidates for Georgia Chapter, and candidates for **no more than one** Group.

Vote for up to the number of candidates indicated below. If too many boxes are checked in either column, **the ballot will be declared invalid**.

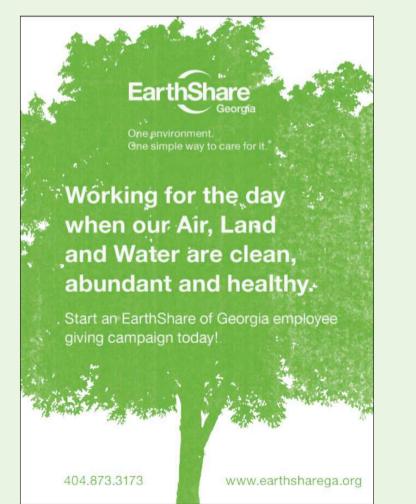


#### PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID



743 E. College Ave., Suite B Decatur, GA 30030

Change service requested



#### SIERRACLUB.ORG/GEORGIA

Head to our website for all sorts of great resources and opportunities, including a **complete** listing of all Conservation Committee Chairs, Issue Leaders, and Group Leaders at **sierraclub.org/georgia/directory.** 

#### VOLUNTEER

Be a part of the legacy! Sign up today to help us protect Georgia's environment: bit.ly/GASCVolunteer

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook: @GASierraClub Twitter: @gasierraclub Instagram: @gasierraclub Meetup: Georgia Sierra Club YouTube: Georgia Sierra Club LinkedIn: Georgia Sierra Club Google+: Georgia Sierra Club Flickr: Georgia Sierra Club