

# GEORGIA



# SIERRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB ♦ OCT / NOV / DEC 2017



**CHAPTER & GROUP ELECTIONS ISSUE** ♦ **BALLOTS DUE NOV. 16** ♦ **PAGES 10-15**  
**PLUS** ♦ **CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN UPDATES** ♦ **LOCAL GROUP REPORTS**



## FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

The resistance has been busy these last 10 months. We are still going strong... but it can get exhausting. If we are going to create the change we wish to see in the world, we are going to need more Sierra Club members to commit to a long-term sustained movement here in Georgia.

That is why we are launching our Project 2020 initiative. This initiative is for the most stalwart long-time members and the newly energized activists alike - those who can commit to contributing or raising - \$1,000 (or \$83/month) - every year between now and the end of 2020. Our goal is to sign up just 100 of the 12,000+ Sierra Club members here in Georgia - less than 1% of our membership. The funds raised will go directly into our grassroots advocacy trainings, actions, lobbying, and movement building activities across the state.

A sustained fund like Project 2020 will give us the ability to plan a multi-year strategy between now and the end of 2020. Our goal is simple -- to activate the hundreds of thousands of environmentalists in Georgia, to effect real change in Washington and in Atlanta. To keep the resistance alive and strong throughout the Trump Presidency. This is our moment to come together as a movement and speak with one voice, echoing through the halls of power in our state and country.

We will resist, we will keep pushing forward, and we will make America and Georgia green again. If you'd like to join this movement, please email me at [ted.terry@sierraclub.org](mailto:ted.terry@sierraclub.org), Subject Line: Project 2020. Thank you!



Ted Terry

CHAPTER DIRECTOR



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# GEORGIA SIERRAN

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### Submissions & Volunteering

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. For more information, contact the editors at [gasierran@gmail.com](mailto:gasierran@gmail.com).

### On the Cover

Photograph of Upper Tallulah River by Larry Winslett

# FALL 2017 CAMPAIGN UPDATES

## Smart Energy Solutions

MARK WOODALL

The so-called nuclear power renaissance collapsed this summer with the abandonment of some \$75 billion of new nuclear power projects. On July 31, South Carolina utilities gave up on finishing V.C. Summer units 2 and 3, with Santee Cooper stating that the new estimated cost of \$25 billion was too much to make their customers pay.

After V.C. Summer died, Duke Energy filed to abandon new nuclear projects at Lee Station near Gaffney, S.C., and in Levy County north of Tampa, Florida. Duke's filing to abandon new nuclear in Florida called for almost \$6 billion in renewable energy projects, including 700 megawatts of solar, 50 megawatts of storage, and 500 electric vehicle charging stations.

The March bankruptcy of nuclear builder Westinghouse caused both South Carolina utilities and Georgia Power to lose their fixed price construction contracts. However, even with the new estimate of \$25 billion or more to finish Vogtle units 3 and 4, Georgia Power chose to double down on its big bet on Vogtle. On August 31, Georgia Power submitted its recommendation that it be allowed to continue construction to the Georgia Public Service Commission.

Why would Georgia Power bet billions more on Vogtle when it could stop the massive boondoggle with an estimated cancellation cost of roughly \$750 million? Because Georgia Power is getting away with highway robbery of its customers. In 2009, Georgia Power hired an army of lobbyists and got the Georgia Legislature to pass Senate Bill 31, the Georgia Nuclear Energy Financing Act. Completely contrary to accepted regulatory policy, SB 31 shifted the risk of new nuclear power plants from Georgia Power to the ratepayers. The bill is

a blank check for the monopoly utility.

SB 31 has allowed Georgia Power to collect over \$2 billion in profits and taxes. The burden of these charges has fallen on residential customers. In a dirty deal described in a recent AJC story, the big industrial users of electricity were mostly exempted from SB 31 to allow passage. Because Georgia Power is experiencing an influx of SB 31 money, the company is determined to continue pouring money into Vogtle.

As stated in the most recent Sierra Club policy guidance, "nuclear energy is dirty energy. The Sierra Club does not support it.... The good news is that clean energy and energy efficiency are not only much cheaper than nuclear but also increasingly ready to replace nuclear without the need for natural gas."

The Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) has a chance to stop this financial insanity, beginning with the August 31 Vogtle proceeding and ending with a decision on February 6, 2018. Contact the five members of the PSC and tell them to stop the Vogtle expansion and to keep pushing forward with clean solar and wind energy and energy efficiency.

The Nuclear Free Team is a subcommittee of the Smart Energy Solutions Committee. Contact Nuclear Free Team Chair Seth Gunning at [srgunnin@gmail.com](mailto:srgunnin@gmail.com) to get involved.

## Regional Action to Improve Livability (R.A.I.L.)

BRIANTE MCCORKLE

The Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee advocates for transportation choices, such as mass-transit and biking, and transit-oriented development in Georgia. We believe that traveling by car should be just one of many options available to Georgians. We work to reduce dependence on cars and trucks by securing more funding for sustainable transportation choices like mass transit, biking, walking, and electric vehicles. We encourage walkable community development for a better quality of life in Georgia, and oppose bloated road projects. Our goal is to cut oil use in half in Georgia by 2030.

Check out what we are working on this year, and if

something stands out, contact Brionté McCorkle.

1. Get on Board Georgia - "Get on Board Georgia" is a statewide commuter rail expansion effort to get the governor to join the Southern Rail Commission by 2018, and to reactivate the state's commuter rail authority. The effort also seeks to get the governor to support the construction of the state's first commuter rail line by 2025. If you live in Clayton County, Griffin, Macon, Columbus, Athens and any towns in between, consider getting involved!

2. Gwinnett Transit Expansion - Gwinnett County needs better transit! The county's transit system (GCT) has kicked off their Comprehensive Transit Development Plan called 'Connect Gwinnett.' This is the first time Gwinnett County Transit has undertaken a comprehensive planning process since their formation. The plan will determine Gwinnett's transit future by examining the current system and identifying short-, medium- and long-term plans and future funding sources. Currently, GCT is made up of six local routes and five express routes. The survey focuses primarily on bus routes; however, we believe that Gwinnett's transit future would be incomplete without any rail solutions. If you want to be able to take a train to move around the county quickly and easily, please use the open ended comments to tell GCT leaders you want rail to be a part of the plan!

3. Cobb Transit Expansion - Cobb County also needs better transit! As they gear up for their own transit study, we are working to build a pro-transit coalition that can help engage as many people as possible to help shape Cobb's transit future.

4. Electrify Georgia - This is our campaign to promote the adoption of electric vehicles. Georgia is now formulating plans for how the state should use over \$58 million in Volkswagen settlement funds. Already, fossil fuel interests are going after these funds for things like natural gas and "clean diesel" vehicles—the very thing that got us in this situation in the first place. We cannot miss the opportunity to fight for zero emission vehicles, which will have the biggest impact on our air quality. It's time for Georgia to fully embrace the future of transportation: clean plug-in electric vehicles. We are encouraging Governor Deal to spend this money on zero emission transit bus adoption, installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and electrifying the state's ports and government truck fleets. These projects

directly reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in Georgia rather than using the funds for diesel, natural gas, or propane, which are much less clean.

Visit us online at [sierraclub.org/georgia/rail](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/rail) for more info!

## Wildlands & Wildlife

LARRY WINSLETT

By law, the US Forest Service is required to update its management plans for the Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forest every 10-15 years; the last time the plan was updated was in 2004. In the 1990's as part of preparations for that update, the Georgia Sierra Club, along with Georgia ForestWatch, the Wilderness Society, and other conservation groups produced a book titled "Georgia's Mountain Treasures." The purpose of this publication was to identify areas of the national forests that needed protection. The recommendations made included possible new Wilderness designations as well as identified areas that needed protections for their roadless character, old-growth forests, recreational qualities, and rare and endangered species habitat. Watershed and possible Wild and Scenic River needs were also addressed. The publication was used to help inform the public as well as the Forest Service to protections needed for the forests and streams.

Currently, we are approaching another forest plan update. As a part of preparations, we are working to update the publication for this coming effort. This time, Georgia ForestWatch is leading the effort with support and input from the Georgia Sierra Club, Southern Environmental Law Center, the Wilderness Society and others. The new publication will be the centerpiece of our efforts to recommend new protections for the forests. The outcome of the planning effort will determine how our National Forests in Georgia are managed well into the 2030's and beyond. National Forests planning is a long process so stay tuned for much more on this in the next couple of years; we also ask that you consider getting involved with our Wildlands Committee to help us protect our National Forests for the future.



# FALL 2017 GROUP NEWS

## CENTENNIAL GROUP

### Centennial Group Celebrates 25th Anniversary

LYNN WALSTON & BETTYE HARRIS



#### ANNIVERSARY PICNIC IN THE PARK

Seemed like old times on Saturday, September 23rd, as we gathered for our 25th Anniversary Celebration and Potluck Picnic on the banks of the Chattahoochee River at Paces Mill Park (site of many of our early group picnics in the 1990's). Again we were graced with beautiful weather; magnificent woods; a morning hike & stream-monitor opportunity; new and returning friends; and great food and fun. We enjoyed a few stories from Roger Buerki and some of our original members, and we welcomed several brand-new members and guests.

#### STAYING ALIVE...GETTING OUTSIDE

We managed to schedule enough early-morning, high-elevation, and cool water outings to keep us outside and active this summer. We look forward to lots more fall and winter outings. Please check our outings schedule often ([sierraclub.org/georgia/outingscalendar](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/outingscalendar)) and join us.

#### ALSO ON OUR AGENDA

We will return to the campus of Life University for our regular group meeting on November 2nd, topic to be announced.

We are planning a return to Avery Gallery (thank you, Shae) on December 7th for our annual Holiday Party & Auction. Please contact Lynn Walston, [lwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lwalston22@yahoo.com), if you can help us plan and prepare.

#### GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Lynn Walston ♦ [lynnwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com) ♦ *Chair*  
Lee Graham ♦ [leegrah3@gmail.com](mailto:leegrah3@gmail.com) ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

Join us on Facebook at  
<http://facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club>

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## Talking Cumberland, Climate, and Hurricanes in Atlanta

NINA DUTTON

In August our group held a screening of the short documentary film "The Shrinking Sanctuary - Cumberland Island" (link to watch and share widely: [vimeo.com/223071670](https://vimeo.com/223071670)) and spoke with the filmmaker, Mark Albertin. The film touched upon many important reasons to protect the wilderness of the island, including its ecological uniqueness, the way it provides a protective buffer for the coast in storms, and more.

In September, Zachary Handlos, an Earth and Atmospheric Sciences lecturer from Georgia Tech, provided lively explanations for how hurricanes form, guided our group through the evidence for how the Earth's surface and lower atmosphere have already warmed due to human activity, and discussed the most likely possibilities for how climate change may shape hurricanes in the future. Researchers now predict that a higher proportion of hurricanes will be intense ones, though more data is needed to improve the current models.

### LOCAL ELECTIONS COMING UP!

This fall, City of Atlanta voters have big decisions to make that could drastically shape the future of our city! We will be electing a new mayor, city council members, and school board members. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 7 and runoff election day is Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Make sure you're registered to vote at your current address, find out when and where to vote, and more details at [registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#Again-No-back-button](http://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#Again-No-back-button). And remember, absentee and early voting can make scheduling so much easier, so keep those options in mind when you make your plan to vote.

Not a City of Atlanta resident? You should check your registration too! You'll have other local races and potentially referenda or other measures to vote on too.

### ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM

Our Adopt-A-Stream activities involve 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 is December 16, from 10 AM - 12 PM. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 - 11 AM, and biological monitoring will take place throughout the two hours. 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/adopt-stream-program](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/adopt-stream-program)

### GET INVOLVED

With major elections quickly approaching in Atlanta this fall, there's lots of work to do! If you'd like to join our group's political committee, which reaches out to candidates for information and decides on which ones to endorse, or help get out the vote, now is your chance. Email political chair Eddie Ehlert at [edehlert@bellsouth.net](mailto:edehlert@bellsouth.net) about the political committee, or our chair, Nina Dutton, at [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com), about voter outreach.

Want to pitch in by keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Would you like to lead outings or plan events? Please email our chair, Nina Dutton, at [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com).

## GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Nina Dutton ♦ [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com) ♦ *Co-Chair*

Denise LaSonde ♦ [deniselasonde@gmail.com](mailto:deniselasonde@gmail.com) ♦ *Co-Chair*

Martin McConaughy ♦ [mcmarty@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcmarty@bellsouth.net) ♦ *Outings Chair*

**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](mailto: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. Recently 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 (<http://sierraclub.org/georgia>) and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zipcode.

**Visit our Webpage** at <http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta>

**Join us on Facebook** at <http://facebook.com/sierraclubatl>



## LAGRANGE GROUP

# LaGrange Farm Tour a Big Success!

LAURA BREYFOGLE

Every summer, the LaGrange Group offers a farm tour to highlight one or more farms in Troup County and its surrounding communities. This year, Joanna Baxter and Eric Simpson collaborated in coordinating a tour that included a farm-to-table lunch, provided by Addis Bugg and his son. The father-and-son duo operate a farm in Harris County that has been in their family for seven generations. Loaded with knowledge and enthusiasm, they provided our group with a tour by hayride, followed by a delicious lunch that featured burger sliders, devilled farm eggs, fresh blueberries and blackberries, and homemade breads and jams. This event was attended by 40 folks of all ages from the Sierra Club and the West Georgia Farmer's Cooperative.

### GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Laura Breyfogle ♦ breyfogle@charter.net ♦ *Chair*  
Ellen Parkhurst ♦ ellen\_parkhurst@yahoo.com ♦ *Membership and Hospitality Chair; Communication Co-Chair*  
Travis Towns ♦ ftravist@aol.com ♦ *Chapter Excom Representative and Communication Co-Chair*



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



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## GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

# Gwinnett Group Ramps Up Political, Transit Work

DAN FRIEDMAN

The outcome of the 2016 federal elections were disappointing; however, the political realities encouraged us to double down on our efforts to make Gwinnett a better place to live.

On the local political level, we supported and were successful in the election of Sam Park to the Georgia State House. We look forward to working with Sam in the upcoming years to improve transit, increase the use of renewable energy sources, and improve the participation rates for all minorities.

Our members have been working with the Gwinnett County Commissioners and other CID's to bring better transit to Gwinnett. With Amazon's announcement that the Atlanta area is a candidate for their new headquarters, state and local governments have focused on where the Atlanta area is weak. Public transit is perceived as a major negative because Amazon wants public transit available to its employees. Our transit efforts are led by Art Sheldon, who has led our transportation initiatives for many years. The lure of 50,000 jobs and the economic boost it would give Atlanta and to the county chosen would be huge. Additionally, being chosen would boost the Atlanta region's profile for high-paying jobs and as a technology mecca. During the Olympics, Atlanta touted itself as a world-class region; having Amazon choose Gwinnett would be an important step in making that marketing phrase a reality.

We have worked to provide our members with informative programs, including legislative updates, electric vehicles, Gwinnett Water initiatives, and Plant Vogtle updates, among many others. We have extended our outreach to work with other organizations, including Gwinnett Water, the Gwinnett Land Trust, and Civic Improvement Districts, including Gwinnett Place Improvement District and Gwinnett Village Improvement District.

2018 will be an exciting year with elections, decisions on energy and transit, and the need to draw high-paying jobs to Gwinnett and the Atlanta region. Our programs in 2018 will include an overview of what the Sierra Club wants to accomplish, our legislative update in February, and programs on transportation, clean energy, and gardening. We will work to improve our

outings program of hikes and our stream monitoring program led by Michael Hallen.

There is much going on this year and even more planned for next year.

## GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Dan Friedman ♦ dan3688@aol.com ♦ *Chair*

Art Sheldon ♦ asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org ♦ *Conservation Chair*

Jake Hardison ♦ jake.hardison@ssa.gov ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

## SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP

Join us in our celebration of the Sierra Club's 125th anniversary. We will have an overnight camping at Mistletoe State Park, including hikes (long and short), paddling, and workshops on topics such as campfire cooking, astronomy, and more. Visit our website for the date and more information: [sierraclub.org/georgia/savannah-river](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/savannah-river)

## GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Linda McBurney ♦ msmcb@outlook.com ♦ *Co-Chair*

Sam Booher ♦ sbooher@aol.com ♦ *Co-Chair*

Frank Carl ♦ frankcarl@knology.net ♦ *Conservation Chair*

Cathy Black ♦ sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

## COASTAL GROUP

## GROUP INFO & CONTACTS

Karen Grainey ♦ karengrainey@bellsouth.net ♦ *Chair*

Steve Wagner ♦ sjwgnr@hotmail.com ♦ *Outings Chair*

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

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

*Athens & NE Georgia* ♦ Ted Terry ♦ ted.terry@sierraclub.org

*Forsyth County* ♦ Jim Callison ♦ callisonjim@bellsouth.net

*Macon* ♦ Fletcher Winston ♦ winston\_f@mercer.edu

*North Georgia* ♦ Larry Winslett ♦ winfog@windstream.net

*Valdosta* ♦ Brian Day ♦ bjday@valdosta.edu



# CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

David Emory ♦ david.emory@gmail.com ♦ *Chapter Chair*  
Jeffrey Schoenberg ♦ schoenbergjhe@gmail.com ♦ *Vice Chair, Administration*  
Mark Woodall ♦ woodallmark8@gmail.com ♦ *Vice Chair, Conservation*  
William Anderson ♦ william.y.anderson@gmail.com ♦ *At-Large Member*  
Eddie Ehlert ♦ edehlert@bellsouth.net ♦ *Metro Atlanta Group Delegate*  
Dan Friedman ♦ dan3688@aol.com ♦ *Greater Gwinnett Group Delegate*  
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William Tomlin ♦ wmltom@gmail.com ♦ *At-Large Member*  
Travis Towns ♦ ftravist@aol.com ♦ *LaGrange Group Delegate*

## CHAPTER EXCOM MEETINGS

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 18 at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221.

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## OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

*Conservation Chair* ♦ Larry Winslett ♦ winfog@windstream.net  
*Secretary* ♦ Eddie Ehlert ♦ edehlert@bellsouth.net  
*Treasurer* ♦ Tom Neff ♦ tsneff2003@yahoo.com  
*Finance Chair* ♦ (vacant)  
*Fundraising Chair* ♦ Marinangeles Gutierrez ♦ mari.advocates@gmail.com  
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*Legal Chair* ♦ Erin Glynn ♦ eglynn1@gmail.com  
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*Membership Chair* ♦ (vacant)  
*Newsletter Editor* ♦ David Emory ♦ gasierran@gmail.com  
*Outings Chair* ♦ Sammy Padgett ♦ sammypadgett@comcast.net  
*Political Chair* ♦ Eddie Ehlert ♦ edehlert@bellsouth.net  
*Webmaster* ♦ Charlotte Gardner ♦ ga\_sierra\_webmaster@yahoo.com

## VOLUNTEER ISSUE LEADERS

For a complete listing of Conservation Committee Chairs and Issue Leaders, please visit: <https://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/contact-us>



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<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>

**Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club office:** Our office is an easy 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 St. and the office is the building located right behind the bakery. Look for the playground behind the building. Enter the fenced gate. The office is the second door from Sams St. on the right.

## CHAPTER STAFF

### *Chapter Director*

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### *Ready For 100 Organizing Representative*

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## NATIONAL STAFF

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### *Southeast Military Veterans & Outdoors Coordinator*

Lornett Vestal ♦ (404) 607-1262 x222  
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## NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTACTS

### *Inspiring Connections Outdoors*

Terri Lyde ♦ [lydeterri@bellsouth.net](mailto:lydeterri@bellsouth.net)

### *Sierra Student Coalition*

Oliver Owens ♦ [oliver.owens@sierraclub.org](mailto:oliver.owens@sierraclub.org)

# CHAPTER & GROUP ELECTIONS

Support democracy in the Sierra Club by taking 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 may vote for up to four (4) Chapter candidates and complete the ballot on page 15. You will find the Chapter candidate statements on pages 10-14.

## 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 12-14.

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 5-8) 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 16, 2017. Mail to: Georgia Sierra Club Elections, 743-C East College Ave., 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](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org).

## Ballot Verification and Counting

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee, on Thursday, November 16, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030 (at the corner of Sams Street and East College Ave., across from the Avondale MARTA station). Ballot verification will begin at 6:30 p.m. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or send a representative to do so.

## GEORGIA CHAPTER

### Daniel Blackman

LOCATION: **CUMMING**

MEMBER SINCE: **2017**



Congressman Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., once thanked his neighbor for voting for him. His neighbor replied, "I didn't vote for you." When O'Neill asked why, his neighbor simply replied, "You never asked for my vote." The truth is, I have never been asked to join the Sierra Club, and while I am not a member, I have been directly involved in Sierra Club sponsored panels as a speaker and presenter, have attended various public forums, and supported former President Aaron Mair on an environmental justice initiative.

When I decided to run for the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee, I did so for two reasons. The first is the importance of Diversity and Inclusion; when I first became involved in the environmental conversation, I did so because I saw a tremendous need for black and brown voices in conservation and sustainability conversations, especially considering environmental justice and the potential of the clean energy economy. Secondly, I believe in public service, having run for the Public Service Commission in Georgia, pledging not to accept contributions from the fossil fuel industry, and more recently running for State Senate as the first black person to ever run for office in Forsyth County, Georgia. When I ran, I ran on a social platform that sought to find common ground on healthcare and education, and to promote the potential of sustainable cities in North Georgia. I hope to serve with bold and courageous leadership.

### Marinangeles Gutierrez

LOCATION: **ATLANTA**

MEMBER SINCE: **2013**



Through the Sierra Club, I have found a community that shares my passion for environmental issues. As an engaged activist for almost ten years, I've worked on a multitude of projects on human rights issues, including the right to an adequate environment. Since becoming a member of the Georgia Chapter in 2013, I have dedicated a large part of my time to community events, includ-



ing marches, hearings, and parties. After being elected to ExCom in 2015, I've kept my word by dedicating my work to enhancing diversity, modernizing communication efforts, and engaging the community in creative formats. I took on two leadership roles as Equity Chair and Fundraising Chair; both of these committees are new to the Chapter, and integrating them into the daily function has required a significant amount of time and passion, as well as coordination with staff.

Aside from these positions, I have also been active in the Smart Energy Committee; most notably as the selected speaker for the Southern Company Shareholders Meeting representing the Sierra Club shares and Millennial voice. In December, I was awarded 'Volunteer of the Year,' a distinction I cherish. Outside of the Sierra Club, I work with Collective Wisdom Group as a consultant helping clients contribute to an equitable, green and resilient society and economy. I am currently pursuing my Masters in Development Practice at Emory University. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on ExCom and would be honored to continue for the next two years as your elected Member-At-Large.

## Yeou-Rong Jih

LOCATION: **ATLANTA**  
MEMBER SINCE: **2013**



I have been an active member and enthusiastic supporter of the Georgia Chapter since 2013. I attended Emory University and the University of Oxford for social science, specializing in neurological and psychological research. I served as a Sierra Club Beyond Coal intern, where I supported the Georgia Chapter's Smart Energy Solutions Committee, helped coordinate four Georgia PSC Rate Case Town Hall Meetings across the state in 2013, and executed regional recruitment for the Atlanta Climate March in 2014. In 2015, I became a full-time Sierra Club employee, where I served as the Georgia Chapter Volunteer Coordinator. As Volunteer Coordinator, I focused on membership engagement, coordinating Chapter events, supporting the Chapter's six regional groups, and managing Chapter social media and administration.

Currently, I work for the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability as a Project Manager for Resilient Atlanta. I also serve on Georgia Conservancy's Generation Green Board and am a graduate of the EPA's Environmental Justice Academy (2017). To this day, I remain an active volunteer with the Georgia Chapter, serving on the 2017 Retreat Steering Committee. I would be delighted to become a member of ExCom and would work to implement the Chapter's Strategic Plan, support the Change Team, and improve organizational

efficiency and membership engagement. Thank you for your consideration!

## Jeffrey Schoenberg

LOCATION: **DUNWOODY**  
MEMBER SINCE: **2013**



I am in my third year on the Georgia Chapter's Executive Committee and my first as Vice Chair for Administration, a position I was asked to accept by other members of the ExCom. That vote of confidence from Sierra Club's statewide leadership is, I hope, a meaningful endorsement of what I bring to the Club.

Nature is an amazing teacher of values. I believe that virtually every person who finds a connection to the natural world is also made a little bit better as a citizen and a neighbor. I believe the natural world needs to be defended, both for its sake and for ours.

My special interest within Sierra Club's work relates to politics and governmental affairs. I started working in elective politics in Georgia more than 20 years ago. I served as a senior staff member for two members of the Georgia delegation to the U.S. Congress, Sen. Max Cleland and Rep. Denise Majette. I have also worked with a number of candidates and elected officials in state and local government. That experience can be put to use helping the Sierra Club find its most effective strategies for pursuing its work with the political leadership of the state. I have cultivated a reputation for reasonableness, practicality and a desire to solve problems, a reputation I think is crucial to getting hard things done.

I value making a practical contribution to the operations of the Sierra Club. I am asking for your support so that I may continue serving.

## David Emory

LOCATION: **ATLANTA**  
MEMBER SINCE: **1995**



It has been an honor to serve on the Chapter Executive Committee for the past eight years, and as Chapter Chair for the past three. I am asking for your support for another term on ExCom -- which, if elected, I anticipate will be my last as I

approach a decade of service and look to create space for new leaders.

The Sierra Club today finds itself in a position unlike any I have encountered in my time as an active volunteer. The election of Donald Trump was a shock to many of us, and we have seen our fears realized as he has installed climate deniers in key positions and withdrawn our country from the Paris Agreement. At the same time, we find a newly energized movement; between October 2016 and July 2017, membership in the Sierra Club increased by 28 percent.

Harnessing this energy to create a more robust and inclusive movement is now our primary challenge. Here in Georgia, we are making significant progress: we recently adopted our 2017-2019 Chapter Strategic Plan, which affirms our commitment to our three priority conservation areas -- clean energy, green transportation, and wildlands protection -- while setting ambitious goals for strengthening our organizational capacity. We are currently in the process of doubling our Chapter staff.

These developments are exciting, but they require a renewed commitment by ExCom and our grassroots leadership. We have much work to do in the coming months and years. I look forward to continuing this journey with you.

## CENTENNIAL GROUP

### Claudette Sukenick

I have been a hiker and nature-lover my entire life and a member of the Sierra Club since 1995. When I first joined, I was very active in the Greater Gwinnett Group, where I participated in outings, led the Adopt-a-Stream program, and served on the Executive Committee. I now live in Marietta and have recently started attending Centennial Group meetings.

Since January of this year, rolling back regulations that preserve our national lands, keep our air and water clean, and protect public health has been a priority for those who hold national political power. Because of this, I've realized it is more important than ever for people who care about the environment to make their voices heard and get directly involved in their communities. Positive changes can only occur if people are informed, involved, and motivated to act. My main interests include getting more people excited about voting and supporting pro-environment candidates. I would also like to help grow community publicity for the Centennial Group, which will grow membership and get more people out to enjoy, explore, and protect our world.

### Connie Dassinger

I would like to be considered for the Executive Committee for the Centennial Group of the Georgia Sierra Club. I have been involved with the Centennial Group for the past few years, am an active hiking leader, and have been a participant in many hikes across Georgia and surrounding states. I am a strong advocate for the environment and believe in the Sierra Club standard to "preserve, protect and enjoy."

### George Watson

I am a recent addition to the Sierra Club family and hope to be involved in Club outings for camping, hiking and water activities. I have had a lifelong relationship with the great outdoors and believe it is among our most precious renewable resources. I have been an activist and political organizer for over 10 years and support progressive causes locally and nationally.

In addition to completing Sierra Club Outing Leadership training, basic First Responder First Aid, and CORE/SalesForce software training on behalf of the Centennial Group, I am also an ORCA certified Wilderness Canoe Tripping Guide. My career background includes Marketing, Marketing Communications, Design Communications, and Executive Recruiting and Staffing, and some writing.

### Lynn Walston

I am the current Chair of the Centennial Group and have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years. I have served on the ExCom for the past seven years and look forward to our campaigns and initiatives going forward. The issues we are dealing with are extremely important, such as climate change, environmental equity and justice, better transit options, and conservation of green space and park lands. These issues affect us all, regardless of age or income distinctions, and I hope to continue to promote greater understanding and participation in effective solutions. Yes, I believe we can "make America green again."

### Olivia Zoe Williams

My name is Olivia Zoe Williams and I am a civil engineering major with geography and environmental engineering double minors at Kennesaw State University. I work part-time as a bicycle mechanic at the Kennesaw REI. Previously, I worked for several semesters as a drafter for a Class I railroad. My primary interest



is sustainable transit in all of its forms-- whether it involves bike lanes, mass transit, or more walkable cities and suburban areas-- I therefore believe I would be an ideal candidate for the transit position of the Executive Committee.

Metropolitan Atlanta is home to wonderful people, breathtaking green spaces, and a relaxed way of living. It is no surprise that its population is booming. However, increased population combined with rampant single-car use has created a traffic burden that many county and municipal departments of transportation are struggling to contain. I believe that our transit issues cannot be solved by the half-solutions currently proposed, but will ultimately require a shift toward a more sustainable transportation network. I hope to be instrumental in creating that shift and would love to work with the Centennial Sierra Club on these issues.

#### GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

### Dan Friedman

My name is Dan Friedman and I am a candidate for the Gwinnett Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

I have been a member since 2002, during which I have served as a member of the Executive Committee and have pushed for better transit in Gwinnett, more diversity in our membership, and improved communication regarding the effects of global warming on the quality of our lives. I would appreciate your help in continuing our efforts to improve our environment.

### Gloria Hallen

My name is Gloria Hallen and I am a candidate for the Gwinnett Group Executive Committee (ExCom).

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for many years, the last 15 as an active member of the Gwinnett group. I am so proud to be a part of a wonderful organization such as the Sierra Club because they reflect many of my beliefs and are so active in supporting them. Our world is such a precious place, and the Sierra Club cares so much about our environment and its people; I have seen so many people work passionately throughout these last few years to try to protect this planet for us and generations to come. I am striving to support the hard work done by our members in whatever way I am capable. As an ExCom member, I will try to greater support the efforts of those who put so much of themselves into the valuable work of the Sierra Club.

### Michael Shapiro

My name is Michael Shapiro and I am a candidate for the Gwinnett Group Executive Committee (ExCom). I have been in the Property Management business for almost forty years. I am running because my contracting company was one of the first companies to go 100% eco-friendly back in 1978, before it became a major issue. I intend to bring more businesses into this fold, and as an amateur ornithologist I will fight to protect those lands which support avian wildlife.

### Susan Gamble

My name is Susan Gamble and I running for re-election to the Executive Committee of the Gwinnett Group of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and would appreciate your vote.

I believe that issues such as climate change and pollution are environmental casualties of the unfortunate failings of good leadership within our government. I am interested in helping bring about a shift in Georgia from the outdated and dirty fossil fuel and nuclear power sources to clean, renewable solar, wind, and possibly tidal energy generation. As well, as a resident of Gwinnett County, I know how important it is for Gwinnett County to be included in a good, comprehensive, regional mass transit system. I have a strong interest in gathering our area's like-minded people so that we can be a positive force for accomplishing our goals.

#### LAGRANGE GROUP

### Ellen Parkhurst

Ellen is a candidate for the LaGrange Group Executive Committee (ExCom). She owns and operates a farm in Southern Troup Co., and therefore understands the importance of clean air, clean water and conservation of resources. A member of the Sierra Club since 2007, Ellen has been responsible for the membership drive and public relations for the local LaGrange Group of the Sierra Club. She has also participated in local cleanup and restoration projects.

### Eric Simpson

Eric is a candidate for the LaGrange Group Executive Committee (ExCom). He was born, raised, and educated in Troup County. He has worked as a human services professional (20 years), sustainable farmer (7 years), and

an environmental and social justice advocate. His hobbies include horseback riding, reading, and spending time in nature. Eric currently resides in West Point, Georgia.

## Ken Fiske

Ken is a candidate for the LaGrange Group Executive Committee (ExCom). He has served one term on the LaGrange Executive Committee and is ready to jump in for another round. His leadership contribution has been in organizing teams for roadside litter pickups and West Point Lake Cleanups. Ken enjoys both kayaking and hiking, though he claims he excels in neither.

## Travis Towns

Travis is a candidate for the LaGrange Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Growing up in the countryside of Mountville and wanting to be an Indian when he grew up gave Travis a reverence for Mother Nature from an early age. Going hiking, camping and all sorts of outdoor activities in Boy Scouts further instilled a respect for our environment. His Eagle Scout project was the creation of a nature trail, complete with identification of native trees, behind his local elementary school. For the past two decades, Travis has been a member of the Wilderness Network of Georgia, a men's outdoors club, and has held office in the past. Being more active in the Sierra Club LaGrange Group for the past three years, Travis has recently been named to the statewide Executive Committee.

### METRO ATLANTA GROUP

## Matthew Evans

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for almost one year. I decided to join because I wanted to turn my individual environmental values into collective action. Environmental justice, and “green” affordable transportation are the two aspects of the environmental movement that I am most interested in. Serving on the Executive Committee as Treasurer, I would raise funds for the Sierra Club, as well as help expand the reach of the Club’s environmental goals. I have been an active member so far by showing up to every Atlanta group meeting and attending several events, such as the People’s Climate March in Washington, D.C. I have also updated the Atlanta group webpage to bring members’ attention to upcoming events and trainings. My previous experiences include being Secretary and Treasurer for oth-

er organizations, such as Circle K, at my alma mater. I look forward to serving the Sierra Club and the local community further as Treasurer of the Metro Atlanta Group.

## Max Brown

As a member since 1984, Sierra Club has informed my experience, especially since moving to Georgia and retiring from teaching. I have participated in several national Sierra Club outings and local Georgia hikes, attended PSC meetings on Georgia Power and Plant Vogtle, attended Forest Service Foothills Collaboration planning sessions, attended Capitol Conservation Day, tabled at the Save the Hemlocks camp meeting, attended Wildlands & Wildlife Committee and Forest Committee meetings, and completed Outings Leader training.

I know the many important roles that the Sierra Club plays in the lives of Americans. It is my desire to help other people connect with similar interests in nature, hiking, birding, and camping. My goals are to grow our base and educate more people so that we are even more viable and politically active, to hike and maintain more trails, and most importantly, to share my passion for our public lands.

## Nina Dutton

My first major involvement with the Sierra Club was when I answered a call from then-Beyond Coal organizer Seth Gunning to put on a rally against the Keystone XL Pipeline with support from the Georgia Chapter. From there, I volunteered with the Smart Energy Committee and assisted with events.

In the fall of 2015, I joined the Metro Atlanta Group Executive Committee by filling a vacant seat, and I became the group’s chair in 2017. I’ve taken on communications tasks for the group and work with other ExCom members to plan meetings. I’m most interested in helping members and volunteers get involved in the Chapter’s conservation and political work and take action with local, aligned organizations. I’ve started to alert our group to these kinds of opportunities, but I know there’s much more to be done to help our members and volunteers put to use their knowledge and passion for exploring, enjoying, and protecting the environment.

The urgency to bring about a just transition to clean energy and a healthy, liveable environment for all is real, and the need for organized action grows clearer each day. I hope to continue working with the Metro Atlanta Group to empower people in our area to make the changes we seek.



# CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS BALLOT

## Georgia Chapter

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 10-12

Vote for up to  
FOUR  
candidates

4

	A	B
Daniel Blackman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marinangeles Gutierrez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeou-Rong Jih	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jeffrey Schoenberg	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Emory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Centennial Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 12-13

Vote for up to  
THREE  
candidates

3

	A	B
Claudette Sukenick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connie Dassinger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
George Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lynn Walston	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Olivia Zoe Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## LaGrange Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on pages 13-14

Vote for up to  
FOUR  
candidates

4

	A	B
Ellen Parkhurst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric Simpson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ken Fiske	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travis Towns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## REMEMBER:

Please read the voting instructions on page 10.

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 this 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 16, 2017.**

## MAIL BALLOTS TO:

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

## Greater Gwinnett Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 13

Vote for up to  
THREE  
candidates

3

	A	B
Dan Friedman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gloria Hallen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Shapiro	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susan Gamble	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Metro Atlanta Group

Executive Committee Candidates  
See candidate statements on page 14

Vote for up to  
THREE  
candidates

3

	A	B
Matthew Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Max Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nina Dutton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# SIERRA CLUB

GEORGIA CHAPTER

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

Change service requested

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Facebook.com/GASierraClub

Twitter @GASierraClub

Instagram @GASierraClub

## SIERRACLUB.ORG/GEORGIA

Head to our website for all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:

- Issue briefs
- Full events and activities calendar
- Group info and leadership roster
- Volunteer opportunities


## UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [georgia.sierraclub.org/calendar](http://georgia.sierraclub.org/calendar) for our calendar of upcoming events, including:

- October 28 - Outing: Appalachian Trail to Blood Mtn from Lake Winfield Scott
- October 28 - Outing: Canoe Betty's Branch
- December 12 - Holiday Party (see below)

## VOLUNTEER

For 125 years, Sierra Club volunteers have worked to protect the environment. Be a part of the legacy! Sign up today: <http://bit.ly/2uy0EsP>

 **SIERRA CLUB**  
GEORGIA CHAPTER

*Holiday Party*

SAVE THE DATE:  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12  
CHAPTER OFFICE  
743 E COLLEGE AVENUE, SUITE B  
DECATUR, GA 30030

VISIT US ONLINE AT [SIERRACLUB.ORG/GEORGIA](http://SIERRACLUB.ORG/GEORGIA)