



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Good Jobs, Green Jobs

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Union Blue + Sierra Club Green = Better Jobs!

By Sybil Cypress

I often feel one's curiosity peak when I mention that the Sierra Club is one of the founding organizations of the BlueGreen Alliance (www.blugreenalliance.org), representing 12 of our country's largest unions and environmental organizations. Up until only a few years ago, labor unions and environmental organizations were rarely mentioned in the same context. You might ask, "So, what became the contextual bridge?" The answer – coal. With the Sierra Club's continued and increased focus on ending mountaintop removal mining and shutting down coal-fired power plants, there were also increased concerns about the jobs that might be lost as a result. Those concerns led to the realization that shutting down coal-fired power plants can actually mean creating jobs, greener, better, safer jobs for Americans! This opportunity, of course, is of GREAT interest to our labor unions.

Our unique partnership with the unions has now grown from a coal industry focus to a broader one that helps to develop solutions to some of our toughest environmental and energy challenges. These solutions include creating new, sustainable jobs that provide family-supporting wages, secure retirements, and offer health benefits. All of this generates a win for our American workers, a win for our environment, a win for our businesses and a win for our economy.

On February 23rd and 24th, the Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel hosted the 1st of four regional BlueGreen Alliance Good Jobs Green Jobs Conferences for 2012 (www.goodjobsgreen-jobs.org). The goal of the annual conference series is to bring together regional leaders from the public, private and non-profit sectors to form innovative coalitions to build a green economy that creates good jobs, reduces global warming and preserves the region's environmental and economic security. Congress-



Sybil Cypress, Assistant Director

man John Lewis, 5th District, Georgia, opened the conference with an inspirational message on why this all makes perfect sense. Then, over the two-day conference, we broke out into sessions to learn more on Emerging Green Sectors, Infrastructure and Cleaner, More Efficient Transportation, Regional, State and Local Initiatives and Partnerships, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and Youth, Education and Green Schools - Building a Clean Energy Movement. The event was successful and demonstrated that the founding ideals of the BlueGreen Alliance, while maybe not initially obvious, were both logical and sustainable.

I am excited to take next steps here in Atlanta to solidify the Sierra Club's new partnership with our local unions. Watch out for more news on how we will team up to help build win-win-win solutions right here at home.

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

Big Corporations Rule Capitol in 2012 Session

By Mark Woodall

The Georgia Legislature adjourned the 2012 session shortly after midnight of Thursday, March 29. Even more than usual, only giant corporations such as Georgia Power and Delta came out the big winners. On the bright side, thanks to your calls and emails, environmental damage was kept to a bare minimum.

As mentioned in the accompanying article, no regional transit governance legislation passed. The MARTA bills, HB 1051 and HB 1052, also died. Just moments before midnight of the final day, Rep. Mike Jacobs tried to block a House floor amendment that would have lifted the 50/50 handcuffs off of MARTA permanently. Jacobs wanted to preserve the deal struck in the Senate which would have lifted the handcuffs though June of 2016. Instead, the bills died, so MARTA now has funding flexibility only through mid-2013. Incredibly, the State of Georgia requires MARTA to spend half of its sales tax funding on capital expenditures and half on operating costs even though the state does nothing for MARTA.

In the area of energy legislation, SB 401 was introduced by Senator Buddy Carter to allow 3rd-party financing of solar power installation on homes, warehouses or schools. Georgia Power, the EMCs, and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce teamed up to kill SB 401. Georgia will remain one of only 5 states that does not have 3rd party financing. Testimony in committee indicated Texas has 27,000 solar energy jobs and Florida has 23,000 solar energy jobs while Georgia trails with 5,000 solar jobs even though Georgia has two large solar panel manufacturers, Suniva in Gwinnett County and MAGE in Dublin. In fact, a MAGE executive testified that their 10,000 square foot solar training facility in Dublin attracts students from all over the U.S. and Central America but few from Georgia. 10,000 solar energy jobs for Georgians were killed by Georgia Power this year.

HB 316, which would have opened EMC (Electric Membership Cooperative) meetings to their members, died in Rep. Don Parsons' House Energy Committee. As EMC members are prevented from attending their own Board meetings or seeing the EMC's records, EMCs like Cobb EMC can have their CEO accused of looting the company and charged with 35 felony indictments. With the failure of HB 316, the EMCs in Georgia are only regulated by local district attorneys, the GBI,

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Legislature Fails to Address Regional Transit Governance

By Neill Herring

Metro Atlanta Transit has always been hampered by the fact that its "regional" transit service provider, the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority, MARTA, has been limited to serving the two counties of Fulton and DeKalb that voted in a 1% sales tax to support it in 1971. For years the need to expand regional transit beyond the "referendum counties" has been obvious, but a way to do that has been politically unobtainable. Cobb and Gwinnett Counties now operate their own bus transit systems, but true regional coordination has been more a matter of sporadic cooperation than anything systematic.

For the last several years some way to make regional transit truly regional has been a goal for the legislature, and in 2011, it was beginning to look as if 2012 was going to finally be the year to make it happen.

During the months leading up to the January, 2012 start of the Georgia General Assembly, the topic of metro transit governance was much discussed. Regional transit governance was a topic avoided in the T-Splost enabling legislation, HB 277, of 2010; it was promoted as a "missing piece" needed to convince metro transportation district area voters to support the T-Splost referendum on July 31 of this year. As soon as the session started, that talk died away in whispers that "Mayor Reed (of Atlanta) doesn't like all the suburban counties having too

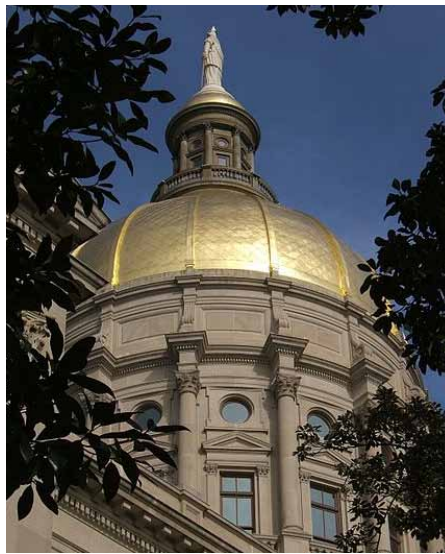
much influence, and Gov. Deal is not going to push anything that makes the Mayor uneasy."

Since those same suburban counties would have to support a regional transit governance bill for it to pass, the project remained speculative until Senator Mullis introduced SB 474 on Feb. 22. Identical bills were expected in both chambers, but two competing House bills were not introduced until so late in the session that neither of them could be expected to pass.

One of those, HB 1199 by Gwinnett Rep. Donna Sheldon, was very similar to the Senate bill. The other, HB 1200, by Atlanta Rep. Pat Gardner offered an alternative to a single regional transit governance agency as the sole provider of new regional transit by allowing any cities and counties to band together to create new transit providers like MARTA, which would be free to cooperate with each other.

No regional transit governance bill passed either chamber of the General Assembly. What influence that inaction will have on the metro T-Splost referendum will be seen, but all the

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2012 Session, (continued from p. 3)

and the FBI. Join our Energy campaign if you want to help reform the EMCs.

This year the Sierra Club again worked within the Georgia Water Coalition to defeat bad bills related to water quality and push positive legislation. A record number of bad ideas were defeated. Senate Bill 110, pushed by Advanced Disposal of Jacksonville, would have made it easier to put giant landfills over our significant ground water recharge areas. SB 110 was not defeated until Day 40. SB 360 was the tilapia takeover bill or kudzu fish bill that would have declared 3 species of tilapia to be domestic which could have resulted in the hardy tilapia wiping out our native bream population. SB 360 died in the House Game, Fish and Park Committee. SB 362 would have allowed removal of sunken logs in the Altamaha system and the Flint. This project of Senate Pro Tem Tommie Williams was defeated in a House floor vote. Other bad ideas that were defeated included SB 467 by Senator Tippens which would have deregulated septage (pumped from septic tanks) and SB 415 by Senator Jeffares which would have allowed sewer plants to be built without a permit.

The final day brought two welcome victories. SB 469, the anti-union, anti-Occupy, anti-picketing, anti-1st amendment bill sponsored by Senator Don Balfour, died without getting a House floor vote. HB 875 was a DNR bill to block certain info about the buyers of hunting and fishing licenses from the Open Records Act. Senator Balfour and others in the Senate added language to HB 875 which would have kept secret ethics complaints that did not result in action (such as the complaint against Senator Balfour possibly) and waive penalties for violations. HB 875 died a much deserved death on the House Floor about 11 p.m. Thursday night.

Thanks again to all of you who called, emailed, wrote or tweeted your elected officials. It's only the people power that prevents total dominance of the big corporations at the Gold Dome.

Transit Legislation Fails (continued from p. 3)

talk of its importance to the vote during the months prior to its failure in the legislature implies a negative effect.

Two "companion" bills (HB 1051 and HB 1052), by Rep. Mike Jacobs, dealing exclusively with MARTA, the sole regional metro transit authority, did not pass, making MARTA's financial situation even worse.

The Jacobs bills that failed would have changed the way appointments are made to the 11 member MARTA Board, and an amendment in the House Transportation Committee could have further restricted the ability of non-MARTA counties (those outside Fulton and DeKalb), to contract with the Transit Authority for the provision of any service outside its home counties.

Both the Jacobs bills and the Governance bills did invoke the operation of a new agency for setting transportation policy in GA: "the caucus of mayors." This concept is almost entirely new. There was what might be called "caucuses" of some mayors that appointed members to the various Regional Transportation Roundtables that formulated the "project lists" under the T-Splost law, but those Roundtables were ephemeral agencies which ceased to exist once their T-Splost project lists were completed and approved for the July 31 ballots by the DOT Director of Planning.

Permanent "caucuses of mayors," in counties that provide transit services, or that may wish to provide such services, as agencies that select those who set transportation policy is largely untested. There is clearly a bowing, at least in the proposed Jacobs MARTA bill, to the "new mayors" of the "new municipalities" of Fulton and DeKalb counties that have come into existence since the Republican accession to power in the Georgia General Assembly. The Senate version of the Jacobs MARTA bill changed the "caucus" appointment

power to one of nomination, with appointment continuing to remain at the Fulton County Commission level.

A problem with the "caucus of mayors" is that prior to their opportunity to influence T-Splost project lists, few mayors had shown much fiscal interest in providing regional transit in their own communities, some newly carved from the wilderness of culs-de-sac, gated communities and charter schools. That these officials should take an interest in a county-implemented sales tax that is dedicated to funding transit in their counties since 1976 is not surprising, but it is difficult to discern even a spark of generosity or cooperation in this attention.

The "caucus of mayors" may simply become a "caucus of wheedlers," newly elected satraps who see money being collected in their jurisdictions of which they think they deserve some portion by virtue of their mere existence. It is of little wonder that the Mayor of Atlanta should be disturbed, as are his counterparts who run Fulton and DeKalb Counties, in the case of the Jacobs MARTA bill.

MARTA is starved for funds, like every other transit agency. But MARTA, uniquely, is not even allowed to allocate the sales tax income it does collect, but must follow a formula set by a legislature which contributes nothing to that income stream. And the freedom for MARTA to use its own money as it sees fit is the tool the sponsors of the "caucus of mayors" wielded to force them into MARTA's house. Regional Transit Governance that delivers any fiscal power to officials who bring none of the money into the provision of service is always going to be highly problematic for those officials who are responsible for providing the funds.

Regional transit governance may be said to remain "a good idea." That was also what Gandhi said when asked what he thought of Western Civilization.

Good News for Georgia Wildlife on Two Fronts



**By Mike Murdock, Chair
Wildlands/Wildlife Committee**

In addition to the recent victories over dirty coal plants, Sierra Club members have two more positive events to their credit.

The HemlockFest is an annual event sponsored by the Lumpkin County Coalition in Dahlonega. Its goal is to raise funds to defend the Eastern and Carolina Hemlock trees against the woolly adelgid. The adelgid is an invasive insect species from Asia. At this time the native hemlocks have no natural resistance to the invader. Proceeds from the HemlockFest go to university laboratories that are researching methods of controlling the adelgids. The most promising approach so far has been the introduction of a predatory beetle that attacks the adelgids, but nothing else. The Sierra Club has staffed a booth at the Fest for the last three years. This year HemlockFest raised \$15,000 for North Georgia College and Young Harris College to support their work. This was the largest donation to date. (See accompanying photo of check being presented to NGC and Young Harris). Many thanks to all the Sierra Club volunteers who helped with the club booth. For more information refer to www.lumpkincoalition.org.

In December a two and half year project reached fruition when the Georgia Board of Natural Resources adopted a

regulation to control the trapping of wild fresh water turtles. The project began in 2008 with a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, the Altamaha Riverkeeper, and the Satilla Riverkeeper. They petitioned the Department of Natural Resources to take steps to protect wild turtles from large scale commercial harvesting. That harvesting has been driven by an increasing demand for turtle meat by the Asian gourmet food market. Historically, fresh water turtles had absolutely no protection from over harvesting. Responding to this petition, the DNR organized a series of stakeholder meetings to address the issue. The Sierra Club participated in the meetings along with other conservation groups, university scientists, turtle farmers and trappers. Given the diversity of interests represented, the meetings were rather contentious at times. Nonetheless the project moved ahead to first produce legislation authorizing DNR to regulate turtle harvesting. The following year the same stakeholders assisted DNR in writing the detailed regulation to implement the legislation. Some key features of the regulation are:

- Permits required to export, farm, or sell fresh water turtles
- Limits on the number that can be taken from the wild and held in possession
- Regulations for establishing and operating turtle farms
- Requirements for record keeping, reporting and inspections

Plant Vogtle: As if Fukushima Never Happened

By Stacey Kronquest

This past February, just a month before the one-year anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear meltdown in Japan, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) gave a Georgia Power-led utility consortium the green light to add two new nuclear reactors to the existing two operating at Plant Vogtle on the Savannah River.

Aside from the tone-deaf timing, the permitting of the reactors is extraordinary for a number of reasons.

Vogtle's new reactors are the first to be licensed in the U.S. in over 30 years. The NRC issued its last license in 1978, the year before the partial meltdown at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania ushered in atomic energy's dark ages.

The 1986 Chernobyl meltdown in Russia kept the industry there for the next decade.

As memory of the accidents faded, the U.S. political machine got behind nuclear, labeling it carbon-free and selling it to the public as "clean and safe," even as piles of radioactive waste grew and water sources became tainted with radioactive effluent.

But energy production is a dirty business, and tradeoffs are necessary to meet energy needs. After all, compared to the consequences of burning coal, nuclear doesn't look so bad.

Until the unthinkable happens, as it did this time last year in Japan. With nearly two hundred thousand people displaced and tens of thousands of acres poisoned beyond habitation, we are reminded that no matter what Georgia Power or politicians say, nuclear energy is neither safe nor clean.

Like Three Mile Island and Chernobyl, Fukushima proves that accidents are unforeseeable. As a result, a handful of countries are determining the risks of atomic energy are too great.

Germany, for instance, has committed to phasing out nuclear energy and rebuilding its electrical grid to connect wind farms and solar arrays. Anyone



who says this is infeasible needs to consider that the World Economic Forum ranks the quality of Germany's infrastructure as the finest in the world. Germany knows what it's doing.

Here in the U.S. things are different.

Not only are U.S. taxpayers loaning Georgia Power over eight billion dollars to build two new reactors, Georgia Power customers are paying the finance costs as well.

No wonder there is a nuclear renaissance—it's a goldmine for utility companies.

Even the NRC is part of the scheme. Tasked with regulating and upholding safety policies, the NRC has become known as the lap dog of the nuclear energy industry.

Case in point: Of the 71 aging nuclear power plants that have sought a 20-year extension to their expiring 40 year permits, NRC has granted every single one a renewal license, even when safety violations were clearly evident.

Although the original two Vogtle reactors aren't up for renewal for another decade, they routinely violate NRC requirements and have suffered multiple reactor trips caused by both human error and mechanical failures.

As it does with most reactor violations, the NRC deems these violations as "low safety significance," giving Georgia Power a pass on violation citations.

Ironically, and somewhat inauspiciously, the NRC found the two new Vogtle reactors in violation of regulations even before they were officially licensed. Specifically, Georgia Power was cited for inadequate procedures to receive, inspect and store building materials. Not long after this violation, NRC licensed the new Vogtle reactors.

Before Fukushima, Vogtle was a certainty. But after, it was stunning to realize that business was as usual in Washington. The "it can't happen here" machine was working overtime.

The chairman of the NRC, Gregory Jazcko, was the one dissenting vote in permitting Vogtle, saying "There are significant safety enhancements that have already been recommended as a result of learning the lessons from Fukushima. Knowing this, I cannot support issuing this license as if Fukushima had never happened."

Once Vogtle's two new reactors go online in four to five years, Savannah will be downstream from the largest nuclear power plant in the U.S.

Because regulators, politicians and Georgia Power are committed to nuclear at any cost and risk, the public is left with little hope that the nuclear renaissance in the U.S. will give way to the age of reason before the next unthinkable happens.

Sierra Club-Sponsored Conference Explores Southeast's Offshore Wind Potential

In March the Sierra Club sponsored the first ever Southeast Atlantic Regional Offshore Wind Conference, held in Charlotte. Over 300 businesspeople, environmentalists, politicians, and government officials attended the ground-breaking sessions. Georgia was well represented both by Sierra Club members and other wind energy advocates.

Not surprisingly, the theme of the first regional conference was regionalism: regional wind resources, regional energy demands and regional strategies. The Southeast Atlantic Coast has vast offshore wind potential, and an equally enormous demand for sustainable clean energy, both to provide for future growth and to replace power lost during the inevitable dismantling of coal and other carbon-based power sources. Bringing wind power to the high-population, high-demand points in the US Northeast, Charlotte and the North Carolina piedmont, Atlanta, and Southern Florida requires regional planning and development. A State-by-State, piecemeal approach misses the big picture, and is likely to be derailed by entrenched state monopoly power utilities. The four states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia are the top four states on the East Coast in terms of accessible offshore wind resources, and together have more accessible offshore wind potential than all the other Atlantic coastal states put together! Counter-productive old rivalries between the states and regions must be transcended if the Southeast is to reap the wealth of the "Offshore Saudi Arabia" of wind.

Brian O'Hara, a principal conference organizer and North Carolina Offshore Wind Coalition President, noted that North Carolina has produced over 2,000 jobs in the wind energy. Every turbine requires about 8,000 separate parts, 60% of which are already manufactured in the USA. Although there is not yet a single wind farm in North Carolina, it has become a significant player in the roll-out of the American wind power industry. Georgians should take note.

In June of 2010 the Obama administration joined with all the governors of the Atlantic states except Georgia to form the Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium (AOWEC). In February 2012, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that federal environmental reviews for designated "wind energy areas" off Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia are now complete and find "no significant environmental impact from the development of wind." That finding clears the way for companies to seek leases. Sierra Club is in the process of urging Governor Deal to get on board with the AOWEC and the federal environmental reviews now being developed for North and South Carolina.

Southern Company nominated itself for wind testing off

Tybee in 2007, but has yet to get even a single meteorological wind meter in the water. Southern Company continues to pursue its coal-nuclear-gas strategy for Georgia, while repeating the long-disproved untruths that Georgia lacks wind and solar renewable energy capacity. Southern Company is fixated on the no-risk schemes offered by state- and federally-subsidized nuclear development which guarantee billions in profit gouged from ratepayers and taxpayers. The last thing Southern Company wants is to acknowledge clean energy options for Georgia which would distract citizens and legislators from the Southern Company nuclear mantra. Georgians might ask, "Hey, do we really want to go down this Vogtle rip-off road – again?" So long as Southern Company/Georgia Power has a say in it, Georgia will not be at the table when the Department of the Interior issues the permits for Southeastern coastal offshore wind development.

Sierra Club has never backed away from big fights when so much is at stake, and be sure that the choice between a bankrupting nuclear future, and a citizen-owned clean solar and free-enterprise wind future is a lot to have at stake.



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Proposed EPD Rules Give Free Pass to Factory Farm Polluters

By Colleen Kiernan

Every year, Georgia raises and slaughters some 1.4 billion meat chickens (broilers), the largest producing state in the country. In fact if Georgia were a country, we'd be the sixth largest producing country in the world. The 17.5 million broilers in Franklin County, Georgia produce as much waste as the greater Philadelphia metro area (equivalent of 5.9 million people). The more than 10.7 million broiler chickens on factory farms in Gilmer County, Georgia produce as much untreated manure as the sewage from the Seattle metro area. Annually, the broiler farms of Georgia produce 2 million tons of untreated poultry litter annually, which is 20% of the U.S. total.

As detailed in the "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" report (download it at www.georgiansforpasturedpoultry.org), Georgia's industrial chicken farms and the 2 million tons of litter they produce annually pose a major threat to Georgia waterways. Dry litter is applied to crops as fertilizer, but because of the large volumes produced, the nutrients in the litter are often more than can be absorbed. The excess nutrients, along with veterinary pharmaceuticals, pathogens, and heavy metals wash into Georgia's streams and rivers, into aquifers and drinking water.

Last summer, the EPA's Office of Inspector General issued a

report, which was based on an anonymous complaint that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division was not enforcing rules that are meant to protect our waterways and public health from factory farm pollution. Shortly thereafter, a bad court decision was issued, relieving many industrial farms from being subject to these protections.

These developments have been disappointing, but Georgia EPD's response has been even more so. Under the auspices of revising the Georgia regulations to be consistent with the court ruling, Georgia EPD has proposed to ignore the Clean Water Act and all but eliminate water protections for factory farms with dry litter. No permits, no nutrient management plans, no recordkeeping, no nothing!

Georgians for Pastured Poultry works to educate consumers that they have a choice when it comes to chicken, and it's no secret that part of the equation is the cost. If industrial chicken farms don't have to pay for their pollution, they pass those costs on to everyone else, and can offer their product at unrealistically low prices. This subsidy is unfair to the smaller, more sustainable farmers, who operate at a level where their litter can be absorbed by their crops and they don't need to pass on their pollution and health costs on to the rest of us.

The Georgia Natural Resources Board will vote on these rule changes on April 25th.



photo by Marco Sarnat

GOING, GOING... GONE?

Sea turtles date back nearly 90 million years and are among the Earth's oldest surviving species. All 6 species of sea turtles are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Sierra Club has mounted a major effort to defend and preserve threatened habitats before their inhabitants are gone forever.

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The Shifting Sands of International Container Shipping

By Steve Willis

Panama Canal Authority CEO Alberto Aleman Zubieta's recent East Coast harbor deepening promotional tour raises more questions than answers. While Aleman Zubieta scrupulously avoided openly advocating the deepening of any one U.S. port in preference to another, on this recent tour he unequivocally pitched deepening as many East Coast ports as possible, as soon as possible. Only a year ago the CEO argued that three deepened ports on the US East Coast, including the Gulf States, could accommodate the huge "Post-Panamax" ships that will be passing through the canal after its deepening is completed in 2014. Since the single megaport complex of Los Angeles/Long Beach (LA/LB) now handles about 40% of all US containerized shipping, Aleman Zubieta's earlier prediction sounded quite reasonable. Why his about face?

As it turns out, the CEO has plenty of reason to flip-flop. The canal expansion project is projected to cost between 15 and 25 billion dollars, which seemed like a no-brainer when authorized during the economic good times of 2006, but has now been overtaken by events. The success and profitability of the deepening now seems in question, and Aleman Zubieta is doing what he can drum up business and, perhaps, to redirect the blame for a possible Canal opening fizzle from himself to Yankee tardiness in the deep dredging department.

John Martin, respected maritime economics analyst, reports that shippers have already redirected virtually all container shipments which can benefit from movement through Panama to the U.S. East Coast using ships which meet the Canal's present limitations. When the deepened Canal locks open in 2014 Martin expects no significant increase in Canal transit. Larger ships may actually reduce the number of canal passages made, and thus reduce the tolls received by the Panama Canal Authority. Of course, The Authority can raise the tolls



for the bigger ships proportionately, but this would induce shippers to stick with US West Coast ports, or switch to the cheaper tolls of the Suez Canal.

Numerous other trends are running against Aleman Zubieta's interests:

- Many of the latest megaships being built are too big to pass through the Panama Canal even after its expansion (but they can easily pass through the Suez Canal).
- America's largest port complex, LA/LB, has greatly improved its rail services to the Midwest and Northeast and even after the Panama Canal deepening access to the Midwest and Northeast via LA/LB will still be considerably faster than the Panama Canal route.
- The worldwide economic doldrums are pinching maritime services profits, putting some companies out of business, and producing a glut of unneeded ships.

Certainly Aleman Zubieta is desperate to maximize incentives to lure more container traffic to the U.S. East Coast through Panama. One big incentive would be to build widespread port overcapacity in the Eastern U.S. funded at taxpayer expense. This would result in fire-sale competition among all East Coast Ports, as well as cut-throat price wars between the East Coast Ports and

LA/LB. The wasteful development of port overcapacity generated by irresponsible use of tax revenues would ultimately produce rock bottom pricing for East Coast port services benefiting marine shippers and box store corporations. It would also condemn taxpayers to interminable demands from federal and state governments to cover port losses.

Whatever happens, Aleman Zubieta will remain a rich man. The American taxpayer and the American economy are at far greater risk. Taxpayers may end up footing the bill for the building, maintenance and permanent life-support for unneeded port facilities, and the U.S. economy may be handicapped for the rest of this century by a ports and goods movement infrastructure which was obsolete even before it was built, and which cannot compete with the thoughtfully designed infrastructures of Asia and Europe (as well as the U.S. West Coast).

America is likely to deeply regret its foolish interstate rivalries, petty political grasping for port pork, and obliviousness to the overarching requirement to know what you are doing before dumping billions of taxpayer dollars into fragmented, wasteful and ill-considered port projects – utterly devoid of any real national plan or strategy.

Elections, Astronomy Top Agenda at March Meeting

The Centennial Sierra Club had an interesting and informative meeting on March 1. We opened the meeting by first hearing from ten candidates running for the Board of Directors for Cobb EMC. All candidates seemed to be interested in bringing transparency and accountability to that office. The Chapter has taken a close interest in this race and did endorse several EMC board candidates prior to the vetting meetings in mid-March. The Cobb Owners Association has been very alert to the attendance of members at the vetting meetings in determining their endorsements. The final elections are March 31.

The main program was entitled "Astronomy 101" and was presented by Mark Banks, an amateur astronomer, President of the Atlanta Astronomy Club, and a leader in our Sierra Club for many years. Mark gave us a fascinating thumbnail sketch of the history of modern astronomy, including its roots in astrology and alchemy. With an accompanying PowerPoint display, Mark showed us what we could see with the naked eye (including space junk and even UFO's), as well as what we can see with a telescope (Jovian moons, rings, asteroids, galaxies, nebulae). He covered the basic types of telescopes, including those that amateur astronomers could purchase. In addition, he gave a basic explanation of the Big Bang theory, Multiverses, "quantum weirdness," relativity, and "Exoplanets" (including exobiology, aliens, and flying saucers). Questions and comments were welcomed and addressed with good humor and sense.

Mark suggested several books that those interested in learning more about astronomy could consult, including *Complete Idiots Guide to Astronomy*, by Chris Dupree and Alan Axelrod and *The Annotated Flatland*, by Edwin Abbott and Ian Stewart. He also suggested related websites, such as www.NASA.gov, nightsky.jpl.nasa.gov, atlantaastronomy.org, and heavens-above.com, as well as magazines (Astronomy; Sky and Telescope; Science News). One other interesting tidbit was that we could check out the "Astronomy Picture of the Day" on the NASA homepage.

All members and guests seemed to enjoy Mark's entertaining and informative presentation.

Sixth Annual River Rendezvous Coming Soon!

On April 21, 2012, Sierra Club Cobb Centennial Group will hold the 6th annual River Rendezvous, which provides a snapshot of water quality in the Rottenwood Creek watershed. Participants will perform Adopt-A-Stream chemical and bacteria tests at 30 sites. Samples will be brought to the Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory for more extensive testing such as

nutrients and heavy metals. Ten teams visit three sites each for testing. They are supplied with trash bags for site cleanup and disposable cameras to document their work. Each team leader is certified in Adopt-A-Stream chemical monitoring.

At previous events, Sierra Club members have found active sewer leaks that were subsequently reported to the county and repaired, mitigating further environmental damage. Items that have been pulled out of the water include a garden hose, a kiddie pool and a skateboard, in addition to the ubiquitous plastic bottles and styrofoam. As a bonus, everyone has a good time helping the community and meeting other environmentally-minded people.

After the data and samples are turned over to the laboratory staff, participants can head down to the gazebo for a cookout. Centennial Group provides hamburgers and hotdogs (veggie options available) and asks participants to bring a side dish or dessert to share. This is a fun event that welcomes people of all ages who have a concern for the well-being of our water. Please meet at the Water Quality Laboratory at 8am for a briefing before splitting into teams and departing to our sites. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Ina Allison (allison@LOMA.org) or Carina O'Bara (carina_do@yahoo.com).

Date: Saturday, April 21, 2012

Time: 8am-lunchtime

Location: Cobb County Water Quality Laboratory
662 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, 30060

River Float and Clean-up Planned for May 19th

Want a good excuse for getting dirty and wet? On May 19th the Centennial Group is planning a river float cleanup in conjunction with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. The CNRA will provide canoes, paddles and PFDs. Participation is limited to sixteen. We will meet at the Powers Island parking lot at 8:30 and will plan to be off the river at 1:00. Bring water and any snacks you might want. Poison ivy will be a factor, so dress accordingly.

Upcoming Events

April 14: Earth Day at Chattahoochee Nature Center, 10am-3pm

April 21: River Rendezvous, 8am-1pm

May 3 meeting: Frank Nederhand – Snow pollution in Peru, 7pm

May 19: Float cleanup, 9am-1pm

June 7 meeting: TBA

Metro Atlanta Group

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

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

April 10: Regular Meeting

Sam Collier was trained at The Climate Project in Nashville, which was established by Al Gore. He will be discussing global warming and some solutions to the problems we face that can lead to climate change.

May 8: Regular Meeting

David Emory will discuss the pros and cons of the TIA-Transportation Initiative Amendment, which if passed will collect a one-cent sales tax for the transportation special purpose local option sales tax in our ten-county Metro Atlanta district if voters approve it at the July 31 election. How will it affect your area?

Seth Gunning is the point person in the Georgia Chapter Office on coal issues. He will update us on the successes that we have had on stopping, delaying or getting power plants to convert to other energy producing resources.

June 12: Annual Picnic – note new month

We will meet at Candler Park beginning at 6:30 PM in June instead of July. It is potluck style, please bring some food to share.

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

Adopt-A-Stream Program events:

Saturday, June 16 (Biological & Chemical): Adopt-A-Stream activities involve Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park, 10 AM - noon. For each biologic monitoring, we need many eyes to find the critters found in the creek. During March's monitoring, participants found clams, red worm, dragonfly larvae, but only 5 total species because of the heavy rain just a day before. There were 8 children from Sierra's Inner City Outings.

Location: Medlock Park is north of Decatur. Willivee Drive runs between North Decatur Road and North Druid Hills Road, with Scott Circle in between those, turn here to go about 1/4 mile to near 948 Scott Circle (use Google Maps or GPS) to the parking lot on the left (lots of baseball fields). Park at far end, then follow Sierra Club Signs and find us at the picnic table near Peachtree Creek behind Ball Field 5.

For more details call Nancy Wylie at (404) 256-1172. For dates of chemical monitoring for April and May, call Larry Kloet at (404) 636-7226.

Meeting Location: Except for the picnic in June, Metro Atlanta Group General Membership meetings are held at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. at the intersection of with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is off East Lake Dr. From MARTA's East Lake station, it's a 15-20 minute walk northeast along East Lake Dr. MARTA Bus 2 runs on Ponce de Leon between North Avenue Station and Decatur Station.

Greater Gwinnett Group

Gwinnett Group Update

Winter has come and gone as I write this – weather professionals consider winter as the three coldest months, December, January and February – and the only surprise is that it was not the warmest winter on record. That award goes to the winter of 2000. Now, my normally black car has turned to a greenish yellow and, to confirm, my sinuses are screaming for relief from the pollen.

Up here in Gwinnett, we will be adding to the pollen by conducting a tree planting at Arcado Elementary school. We will be talking with the grade school students about the

environment and what they can do to protect and enjoy the environment. We are planning outings into North Georgia and we are continuing our Stream Monitoring program led by our stream guru, Michael Hallen.

Our March meeting saw a great presentation of the water issue in Gwinnett, April will feature a presentation on community gardens, and our May meeting will be on electronics recycling. June as always will be our picnic.

There is a lot going on in Gwinnett. If you have not joined us, it is not too late to make us your belated New Years' resolution.

- Dan Friedman

Savannah River Group

Savannah River Group News

Our February meeting was especially exciting and attracted a sizeable crowd interested in climate change and the demise of endangered Staghorn Coral (see photo) in the Florida Keys. We featured a NSF video of Dr. Kathryn Sutherland's research showing, for the first time, a link between a human bacterium (*Serratia marcescens*) found in human feces, and a subsequent lethal infection in the Staghorn Coral. Her research led to the closing of leaking septic systems in nearby Florida cities.

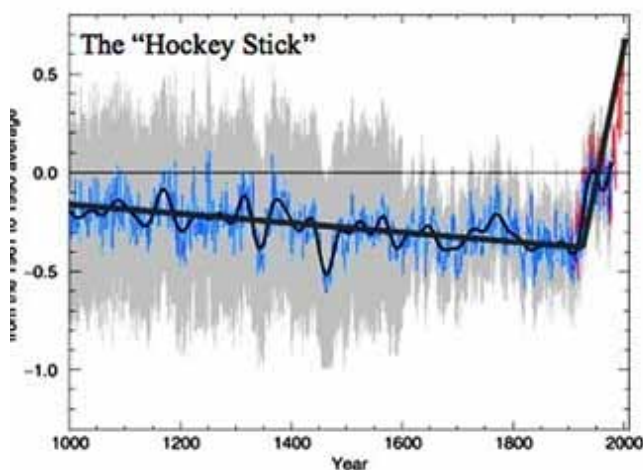
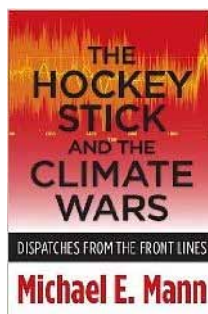


Since coral reefs are also affected by temperature changes, particularly warming ocean waters, the second part of the program focused on a DVD from the National Center for Science Education explaining how climate change deniers "cherry pick" the evidence to cause many folks to think that climate change is a "hoax." The most relevant portion was probably the distortion of climatologist Dr. Michael Mann's 1998 graph depicting temperature changes

in the Northern Hemisphere over the last 1000 years, resulting in this famous graph being dubbed the "Hockey Stick" (see photo). Since then, contrary to deniers, his data have been supported by more than nine research articles using various means of assessing temperature changes in the Northern Hemisphere. These research approaches include analyses of Arctic ice cores, tree ring measurements, glacial ice cores, and borehole and isolated stalagmite data just to mention a few. Dr. Mann has just published a new book (see photo) on his research supporting climate change which should be of interest to all of us concerned about the consequences of a warming planet.

On a lighter side, our March program featured aspects of cave exploration. In April and May our programs will feature, respectively, underwater explorations and restoration of a portion of the Augusta Canal. On March 31 we had our annual fund-raiser, the Spring Rummage Sale. If you are visiting Augusta, give us a call or email. Our Outings Chair, Cathy Black, may have an adventure you can share. Stay tuned!

- Judy Gordon, Co-Chair



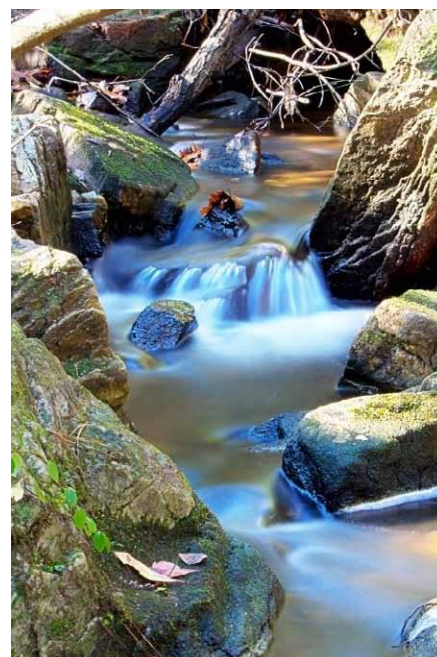
LaGrange Group

LaGrange Group Update

The LaGrange Group is very fortunate to have the opportunity to partner with various organizations to work on common goals. Since our beginnings in 2008, we have participated annually in clean ups at West Point Lake sponsored by the West Point Lake Coalition, the Great American Clean Up sponsored by Keep Troup Beautiful, and the Earth Day event sponsored by LaGrange College each April.

We are very excited about our latest opportunity to partner with the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeepers, who have recently opened a regional office in LaGrange! Jill Sistino, UCR regional outreach manager, is setting up an Adopt-a-Stream training as well as a monitoring site for our future AAS volunteers on Long Cane Creek, a tributary of the Chattahoochee River. Jill made a presentation at one of our fall meetings and we look forward to a presentation by UCR founder and director Sally Bethea at our upcoming meeting on March 20.

-Laura Breyfogle



Outings & Events

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

Sunday, April 15

Amicalola Falls Fitness Hike

Time: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Time Tentative)

Location: Dawson County

Registration: Required before April 12, 2012, 9pm

Rated: Strenuous

Cost: \$5 Park Fee

Description: This is a fitness hike for intermediate to advanced hikers. Beginning at the Amicalola Falls State Park visitor center, we will hike the base of the falls trail (including 604 step staircase the "first mile"), and then hike the AT Approach trail. We will turn onto the Len Foote Trail and hike to Len Foote Hike Inn, where we will stop for a break and to eat a snack/lunch. Then hike the len Foote trail back down to the visitor's center. Total hiking distance is about 12 miles. I have listed this as a fitness hike because we will maintain a steady pace with very limited rest breaks, except to enjoy our lunch and a beverage at the Len Foote Inn. Also, the hike will exceed 12 miles with above-average elevation gains. The pace will be moderate to fast. Limit 10. Contact Sammy at sammypadgett@comcast.net or 404-775-7660 to register or with questions.

Sunday, July 1 - Saturday, July 7

Yosemite National Park - Hetch Hetchy

Leaders: Andy Mycroft and Sammy Padgett

Location: Yosemite National Park, CA

Registration: Required before June 1, 2012, 8am

Cost: \$250 Per person, \$50 due upon sign up. This covers the backpacking permit and trip leadership. It does not cover travel to and from Yosemite National Park, park entry fees, food or lodging.

Signup Restrictions: Participants will need to demonstrate an ability to carry heavy loads, 40 to 50 pounds at 7,000' and above while covering 10 miles per day. The total elevation gain and loss is estimated to be approximately 23,000' over the 7 days of hiking. A check out hike and/or approval for the trip with Andy Mycroft or Sammy Padgett is required.

Rated: Strenuous

Bring: All personal gear, food, mess kit, backpack, bear canister, etc. Prepare to be self sufficient. There will be no "group" gear

Description: This trip is a fund raiser for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, and funds raised will be used support the outings program.

We'll depart White Wolf Campground Sunday, July 1st and return there Saturday July 7th. Participants are encouraged to arrive at White Wolf on Saturday, Jun 30th to ensure timely departure.

Participants will arrange their transportation to and from Yosemite National Park indendently, and are encouraged to either arrive a few days early or linger in the area and visit other places - Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Mono Lake, etc.

A pre-trip meeting will be held at 8:00 PM, Thursday, April 5th, location to be determined. Participants are encouraged to attend.

How to Register: We accept reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. Please give some thought to your interests and preferences. This trip is strenuous. Be realistic about your physical condition and the trip's level of difficulty.

Contact Andy Mycroft via email at awmycroft@yahoo.com to register. For complete details and policies, see <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>

Additional outings are scheduled in April as part of the John Muir Outings series. See the back cover for more information.

Sierra Club 101



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

Join us on **Saturday, May 12th** from 10:30 AM to noon for Sierra Club 101, your crash course on the Club, the Georgia Chapter, and our issues. Meet with volunteer leaders and staff at the Sierra Club office at 743B East College Ave., Decatur as we introduce you to our Sierra Club.

Go to georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101 to RSVP or contact Sybil Cypress at gasierraclub101@gmail.com if you have questions.

Contacts

Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

Eddie Ehlert, 770-402-0087,
edehkert@bellsouth.net
Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

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

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

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

Bruce Morton, 404-569-5896
brucekmorton@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Tom Neff, 770-565-3869, tsneff2003@yahoo.com
Centennial Group Delegate

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

Norman Slawsky, 404-299-1211 x25
nslawsky@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

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

Appointed Officers & Chairs

Secretary: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

Assistant Treasurer: Lynn Beach,
lynnmichaelbeach@gmail.com

Conservation Chair: Alan Toney,
mudflat@comcast.net

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

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

Finance Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Fundraising Chair: Clay Tucker,
tuckerwf12@aol.com

Human Resources: J. Michael Walls
mwalls@ellijay.com

Inner City Outings: Naomi Bock, atlantaico@
gmail.com

Legislative: Mark Woodall,
markwoodall@windstream.net

Litigation: Mary Drake, mdrake126@charter.net

Newsletter Editor: David Emory,
gasierran@gmail.com

Outings: Scott Sanders,
thebrittinggroup@gmail.com

Outreach: Lynn Beach,
lynnmichaelbeach@gmail.com

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
edehkert@bellsouth.net

Sierra Student Coordinator: Kelsea Norris,
keseanorris@gmail.com

Training Team Coordinator: *vacant*

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Conservation Campaigns

RAIL Committee:

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

Smart Energy Solutions:

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

Wildlands and Wildlife:

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

Beyond Factory Farming:

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

Issue Leaders & Contacts

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

Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:

Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.com

Clean Air: Curt Smith, chsmith@speakeasy.net

Coastal: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

Coastal Marsh: Mark Mosely, msmosely@aol.com

Cumberland: *vacant*

Factory Farms: Leah Garces,
leah.garces@ciwf.org

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

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

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

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

National Forest Issues: *vacant*

Nuclear Waste: Stacey Kronquest,
stacey@kronquest.com

Okefenokee Swamp: Sam Collier,
scollier@mindspring.com

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

Population: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

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

Savannah Port: Judy Jennings,
judyjennings@comcast.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

Georgia Chapter Staff

Chapter Director:

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

Assistant Chapter Director:

Sybil Cypress, 404-607-1262 x.221
sybil.cypress@sierraclub.org

National Staff

Associate Press Secretary:

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

Beyond Coal Organizer:

Seth Gunning, 404-607-1262 x.233
seth.gunning@sierraclub.org

Standing Meetings

Inner City Outings

Meetings: 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Chapter Office

Fundraising Committee

Third Wednesday of the month. Contact Clay Tucker at tuckerwf12@aol.com for more info

Local Groups

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

Centennial Group

Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton

Chair: Carina O'Bara,
carina_do@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: *vacant*

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions contact Carina O'Bara at carina_do@yahoo.com.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Steve Willis, snwillis@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Steve Wagner,
sjwgnr@hotmail.com

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

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett Co.

Chair: Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Beth Remmes,
bremmes@hotmail.com

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

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

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Nancy Green,
mngreen@wirelesshometown.com

Outings Chair: Elizabeth Appleby,
ecappleby@yahoo.com

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

Metro Atlanta Group

Serving Atlanta, Dekalb, & South Fulton

Chair: Gordon Draves, (404) 766-3456
nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy
mcmarty@bellsouth.net

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

Savannah River Group

Serving Augusta & surrounding areas

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

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

Conservation Chair: Frank Carl, frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair: Cathy Black,
sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

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

Regional Contacts

LeConte Group/Athens & NE Ga.

Terry Jones, wolpers4@aol.com

Forsyth County

Jim Callison, jimcallison@juno.com

Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston_f@mercer.edu

North Georgia

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

Looking for a Group near your home?

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

CLIMATE
RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP



Georgia Chapter Office

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

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club

office: Our office is an easy 3-4 minute walk from the MARTA Avondale station (E7). We encourage you to take MARTA when possible. Exit the MARTA station towards the SOUTH PARKING LOT, located on the East College Ave side. Once outside, proceed to the right towards Sams Street. Cross over Sams St. and the office is the building located right behind the convenience store. The office is the second door from Sams St. — Suite B.

Stay Informed!

SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:

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

GA Chapter Outings:

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

GA Chapter Email Lists Site:

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

EMAIL LISTS

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

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

GA-ENERGY-FORUM (Smart Energy Solutions Committee)

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

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:

http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup

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

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next meeting will be Sat., May 19th in the Savannah/Tybee Island area. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

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

-John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club

April 7 – Darby Farms

April 14 – Overnight at Chattahoochee Bend

April 21 – Waters Creek Hike, Turners Corner

April 28 – Atlanta Streetcar Tour

In celebration of Earth Day this year, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club is going back to our John Muir roots by hosting a series of four outings – one every Saturday in April – where Georgians can learn about threatened places in Georgia. To support the Georgia Chapter’s work to protect these special, threatened places, a suggested donation of \$25 is requested per participant, per trip.

**For more information and registration,
visit www.georgia.sierraclub.org/apriloutings**

