



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



2012 Election Issue

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The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave

By Colleen Kiernan

The 4th of July is the best time of year to stop and reflect on what it means to be an American. One of the most obvious things you can do to celebrate our heritage is to go out and enjoy public lands. Support your National Parks! While our Sierra Club founders explored the great places of the New Frontier, we have some true gems in the Southeast, from the Great Smoky Mountains to the Everglades, and of course, Cumberland Island. Support your Georgia State Parks and your local parks, too. I was surprised (but pleased!) last weekend when I was playing softball at the City of Atlanta's East Lake Park, and the restrooms and water fountains were all working. All of these places that we set aside to protect habitat, provide a place for solace, or to gather as a community are part of our American fabric.

If you care about America, speak out about climate change. Everyone notices the unusual number of extreme weather events and natural disasters, from the fires in Colorado that destroyed nearly 200 homes to the 11 zoo animals dying in Minnesota floods to the heat waves along the Eastern Seaboard. Even the most rabid of climate change deniers will acknowledge this is not "normal."

As I write this column from coastal South Carolina, I am alarmed at how seemingly out of balance our coastal ecosystem is. Southeast beaches are covered in sargassum, a type of seaweed, that resulted from high tides that followed the super moon. The tides carried dead marsh grass that accumulated during the prolonged drought out to sea, then recent tropical storms washed the seaweed back to shore.

Of course, marshes that have always had periodic die-offs, but researchers are reporting an increase in the size and



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

regularity of die-offs, up and down the Southeast coast. The die-offs can be attributed to a number of factors, but the extreme weather - both droughts and tropical storms - stress the normally resilient marshlands, which provide habitat to a number of species. Sea level rise, according to research by the Baruch Institute, is likely to wipe out half the salt marshes in the Southeast in the next 20 to 30 years.

Finally, and perhaps most obviously: Vote! Georgians head to the polls on July 31st (or early voting is a great option, starting July 9th) to vote on our regional T-SPLOSTs, for Public Service Commission, and a variety of Congressional, state and local races. This issue of the

Sierran will help guide you through where you can make a difference for the environment with your vote.

About Georgia Sierran

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If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you'd like to switch to the electronic edition please contact Sybil Cypress at **404-607-1262 x.221** or sybil.cypress@sierraclub.org. Our budget – and our trees! – will thank you.

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

Election 2012: How We Got Here

By Neill Herring and Mark Woodall

On July 31, Georgians may vote in either the Republican or Democratic Primary Election. On their ballots, in addition to candidates for various local offices and for members of the General Assembly, they will find a “ballot question.” This unusual item is not a constitutional amendment, which can only be on the General Election ballots in November, but a referendum, actually, one of twelve referenda in 12 regions scattered over the state, to levy an additional sales tax to fund a list of transportation projects in each region. This “T-Splost” (Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax) is a legacy of the now-retired Governor, Sonny Perdue.

Beginning with the employment of a lobbyist in 1989, the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club has long been active in fighting sprawl-inducing, environmentally-disastrous Georgia DOT road projects such as the proposed Outer Perimeter around Atlanta, known as the Two-Billion-Dollar Boondoggle before it was downsized to the Northern Arc. The Sierra Club has also filed a series of legal actions based on the bad air quality resulting from the policies of Georgia DOT.

During his 1999-2002 term, Gov. Roy Barnes created the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, GRTA. With GRTA, Barnes was responding in part to a successful Sierra Club lawsuit over Metro Atlanta air quality which had halted expenditures of federal funds on road projects in the region. GRTA was designed to speed up the construction of light rail transit lines, commuter rail, and additional bus service.

After his upset victory over Barnes in 2002, Gov. Perdue turned GRTA into little more than a suburban bus line, providing “luxury coach” service to suburban riders to and from downtown Atlanta where they could connect to MARTA for onward movement. Perdue’s own transportation initiative largely avoided Metro Atlanta projects, with some exceptions for suburban road projects like the massive rebuilding of the I-85 / GA 316 interchange in Gwinnett County.

Perdue’s big spending was on a series of rural highway four lane projects, initially called “Paving the Way Home,” and later “Fast Forward.” The plan was based on the use of GARVEE bonds, a type of financing based on borrowing money now and repaying it later with federal highway funds that will come to the state in the future. Perdue the candidate had denounced Barnes for using this method of financing transport projects, but then plunged deeply into it after he was elected.

Fast Forward proved ill-timed, coinciding with the great Chinese economic boom, a phenomenon that drove the global price of all basic road building materials upward dramatically, effectively making the bids on the four lane projects far too low not long after the contracts were awarded. Contractors began to abandon the projects after work had commenced because

they realized that if they stayed on the job they would lose money.

For reasons remaining unclear, the DOT did not declare the projects in default of contract on a timely basis; meanwhile, Georgia law required that funds for full payment on all contracts let by the DOT for road projects had to be paid in full into construction accounts upon issuance of the contracts. That meant that the GARVEE money was parked in bank accounts while nothing was being done on the projects. This led to a financial crisis at Georgia DOT that was discovered by Gena Evans after the DOT Board selected her as Commissioner with Perdue’s support.

In response to the Georgia DOT bookkeeping fiasco, Perdue launched a legislative campaign to “reform” the DOT. Where Barnes tried to deal with the agency’s culture of poor performance by creating a new, parallel bureau in GRTA, Perdue chose to attack the DOT Board head-on, by creating a new boss at DOT called the Director of Planning, whom he would appoint.

Neither the original DOT “reform” act (SB 200) nor the T-Splost enabling legislation that followed (HB 277) required any change to the state constitution, so legislative “super majorities” of 2/3rds votes were not required. No constitutional amendment was placed on the ballot. Politically, the T-Splost proposal is a partisan project specifically designed to require no Democratic votes or support; it is also a plan that ignores the existing constitutional arrangement for financing and governing the state’s transportation policy.

The T-Splost is actually a “Plan B” itself as “Plan A,” SR 845, was killed on the last night of the 2008 session by Georgia’s largest road contractor, C. W. Matthews. SR 845 would have opened up the 4th penny of the state sales tax on motor fuel to any transportation use including transit. Hundreds of millions of dollars which now go into the general fund would have gone to transportation had SR 845 passed.

Whether the T-Splost is itself constitutional or not is up to the courts to decide, should one of the regional referenda should pass and then be challenged. But the question of constitutionality is not as important as the fact that the T-Splost was conceived as a way to “change the subject” in regard to DOT mismanagement, designed by the same Governor who was responsible for the underlying problem.

Proponents of the T-Splost never discuss the politics or policy that created the referendum process, or the higgledy-piggledy “project list” compilation by a hurriedly assembled “roundtable” of county commissioners and mayors. The T-Splost would continue for 10 more years the same old corrupt, highway-contractor-centric, business-as-usual transportation policies we have seen these last 20 years. Metro Atlanta and the other regions of Georgia can do better.

Georgia Chapter Sierra Club 2012 General Primary Endorsements

The following Candidates have been helpful in forwarding the agenda of the Sierra Club and deserve our endorsement in the July 31, 2012 Primary:

U.S. Congress

District 4 – Hank Johnson
District 5 – John Lewis
District 13 – David Scott

Georgia State Senate

SD 7 – Mark Hatfield
SD 15 – Ed Harbison
SD 38 – Horacena Tate

Georgia State House

HD 9 – Clint Smith
HD 39 – Alisha Thomas Morgan
HD 53 – Shelia Jones
HD 58 – Simone Bell
HD 59 – Margaret Kaiser
HD 75 – Yasmin Neal
HD 77 – Darryl Jordan
HD 93 – Dar’shun Kendrick
HD 137 – Debbie Buckner
HD 142 – Nikki Randall
HD 153 – Carol Fullerton
HD 169 – Chuck Sims

Ballot Question

T-SPLOST – “No” (All regions)

Election Information

In addition to Election Day on July 31, early voting is also an option starting July 9. For more information, visit <http://mvp.sos.state.ga.us/>

Candidate Profile: Simone Bell

After I moved in 2009, it took me a little longer than I would have liked to get to know my new elected officials. It wasn't until January 2011 after the annual Georgia Conservation Voters Legislative Breakfast that I dropped in on my recently elected



State Representative, Simone Bell. At first, she thought I was just one of many stream of lobbyists, rudely interrupting her morning to sell my position on the bill of the day. As soon as I told her I was just a constituent who was interested in getting to know her and be a resource on environmental issues, she responded with a warm smile and she has been the best representative I could have asked for. From that point forward, she has thoughtfully responded to all the information I have provided her, called me from the House Floor to ask about

confusing issues, and voted the right way almost every time. I was very disappointed when I realized that the new House map made it so Simone is no longer my State Representative, so I urge everyone who is in the new District 58 from Cascade to Virginia Highlands (pictured below) to support this true environmental champion.

- Colleen Kiernan



Two PSC Members Face Challengers

Most Georgians have never given a thought to the Georgia Public Service Commission, which regulates telecommunications, transportation, electric and natural gas services. But those who have suspect that the five commissioners are more concerned about protecting utilities than consumers. Two of our five Commissioners, Stan Wise (R) and Chuck Eaton (R), are up for election this year, and both have drawn primary opponents. Pam Davidson, who nearly beat Lauren “Bubba” McDonald in the 2008 GOP primary is challenging Stan Wise, and Matt Reid, an electrical engineer, is taking on Chuck Eaton.

This is an especially important election, because Georgia Power will be filing their next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in January. This plan will detail

how the company plans to meet expected demand for the next 20 years. Many of Georgia’s aging coal-fired power plant fleet will be retired in coming years, and the question before the Public Service Commission will be whether those retiring plants will be replaced primarily with natural gas. While natural gas seems like much less of an evil, it is historically low rates and is cleaner than coal, but it is nevertheless a fossil fuel, the fracking that has made it so is affecting water supplies in New York, Pennsylvania, and even up the road in North Carolina. We have the opportunity to demand best-in-class energy efficiency and a true commitment to renewables, and we can do it with a Public Service Commission that takes the long view.

T-SPLOST Guide: Metro Atlanta

Of the twelve regional transportation sales taxes (T-SPLOSTs) that will appear on the July 31 ballot, the Metro Atlanta tax is by far the largest, raising as much as \$7.2 billion over a 10-year period. Most of this funding (85 percent) has already been assigned to specific projects by a “roundtable” of officials from the 10 ARC counties (Clayton, Cherokee, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, and Rockdale) and the City of Atlanta. Despite the wide variation in both population and tax revenue generated, all counties were given equal representation on the roundtable.

The T-SPLOST will remain in place for 10 years or until the predetermined revenue limit of \$7.2 billion is reached, whichever comes first. Should the 2012 referendum pass, the TIA includes a provision allowing for reimposition of the T-SPLOST (contingent on voter approval) after the initial taxing period expires, using the same process for allocating funds that resulted in the current project list.

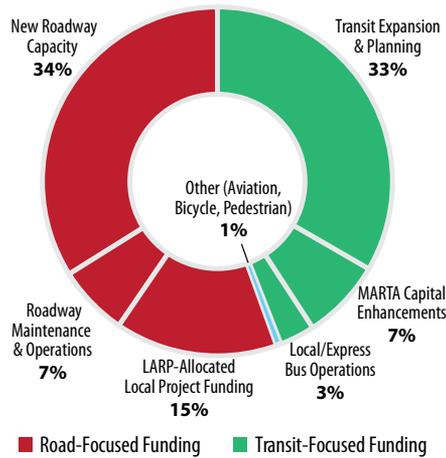
Funding Overview

If the T-SPLOST passes, the funding will be spent on several major categories:

Roadway Capacity Expansion (\$2.4 billion; 34 percent of total T-SPLOST revenues) – Additional highway capacity is a centerpiece of the T-SPLOST project list. The bulk of this funding will provide for widening of existing suburban and exurban arterial roadways. Key projects include a new nine-mile limited-access expressway in Gwinnett County utilizing right-of-way originally preserved for the Outer Perimeter, widening a section of the Ga. 400 expressway in north Fulton County from ten to fourteen lanes, and partial conversion of Tara Blvd. in Clayton County to a limited-access expressway.

Roadway Operations and Maintenance (\$474 million, 7 percent) – Despite a major backlog of roadway maintenance needs, a comparatively small amount is

T-SPLOST Funding Breakdown By Project Type



devoted to projects focused on roadway upkeep and operational efficiency (e.g. bridge replacement, traffic signal coordination, etc.); five times as much is committed to projects focused on expanding capacity.

Transit Expansion & Planning (\$2.4 billion, 33 percent) – Roughly one-third of T-SPLOST revenues would go to build and/or plan new transit services. Key projects include a light rail spur to the Emory/CDC area, an expansion of the intown Atlanta streetcar line currently under construction, and a new transit line to Cobb County (which could be either bus or rail). In some cases, the tax provides only a fraction of what is needed to fully fund the projects being planned; the T-SPLOST is also generally silent on how long-term operations and maintenance costs of these expansions will be covered.

Transit Operations and Maintenance (\$235 million, 3 percent) – The T-SPLOST provides for annual operating assistance to three suburban bus systems: GRTA Xpress, Gwinnett County Transit, and Clayton County’s currently suspended C-Tran service. Notably, MARTA is expressly forbidden from using T-SPLOST funds for operations of its existing system.

Other Projects (\$28 million, < 1 percent) – Less than one percent of total revenues were devoted to bicycle/pedestrian and aviation projects. This allocation could increase somewhat if local jurisdictions choose to devote a portion of their local funds to these categories (see below), but will likely remain a very small component of the overall T-SPLOST program.

Local Project Funding (\$1.1 billion, 15 percent) – Fifteen percent is allocated for projects to be determined by local jurisdictions. The “LARP” formula by which the funds are allocated strongly favors the outermost counties at the expense of the core counties, despite the fact that the bulk of the tax would be raised in the core. While we will not know the full breakdown of these funds by mode prior to the vote, our expectation is that the majority will be devoted to road projects.

Chapter Position

After much deliberation, the Georgia Chapter is recommending a “no” vote on July 31. The decision to oppose the Metro Atlanta T-SPLOST involved the most discussion, because unlike the other eleven lists, it does have a significant portion devoted to mass transit. Ultimately, the Chapter leadership concluded that the project list is too heavily focused on sprawl-inducing road expansion and will have a negative overall impact from an environmental perspective.

A frequent refrain of T-SPLOST supporters is that there is “no Plan B” for transportation in Georgia. The Sierra Club rejects this notion, and believes that there is indeed great potential for an alternative plan that achieves meaningful progress on commute alternatives for Georgians without needlessly subsidizing another wave of sprawl. For more information on the Chapter’s position and potential alternatives, please visit:

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

T-SPLOST Guide: Around the State

While the Metro Atlanta referendum has dominated much of the public discussion surrounding the T-SPLOST, it is just one of 12 individual tax districts that together encompass the entire state, each with their own referendum on July 31. The structure of the proposed tax in the other districts is essentially the same: a 1-percent regional sales tax that will be in place for up to 10 years. In each region, 75 percent of the funding is allocated to projects in advance by a “Roundtable” of regional officials; the remaining 25 percent is redistributed amongst local jurisdictions for locally-determined projects (note that this differs from the 85/15 breakdown in the Atlanta region).

Below is an overview of the T-SPLOSTs in the eleven regions outside Atlanta. In every region, the funding allocated to date is dominated by roadway expansion projects, many of which are located in largely rural or undeveloped areas where the potential for increased sprawl and related environmental impacts is a major concern. Most regions do include funding for transit or bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure, but the amounts are generally a small fraction of the total tax revenues (the highest is in the Coastal district, which has allocated roughly 10 percent). Given this heavy emphasis on road expansion, the Georgia Chapter is recommending a “no” vote in all districts.

(Note: the percentages for transit/bicycle/pedestrian share are based on the three-quarters of funding that has already been allocated; those percentages could increase as the one-quarter for local money is assigned to specific projects, though we expect the local funding would also go overwhelmingly to roads. Total revenue estimates are in 2011 dollars.)

1. Northwest Georgia

Counties: Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, Fannin, Floyd, Gilmer, Gordon, Haralson, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Polk, Walker, Whitfield

Estimated Total Revenues: \$1.27 billion

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 2 percent

Notes: Among the largest single commitments is \$70 million for the US 411 Connector, a controversial project due to its potential impact on the environmentally sensitive Dobbins Mountain area. Other major projects include four-laning a lengthy stretch of Rockmart Highway south of Rome and six-laning US 41 through Cartersville. Transit items include operational funding for GRTA’s Xpress commuter bus service from Paulding to Atlanta and a rural transit assistance program.

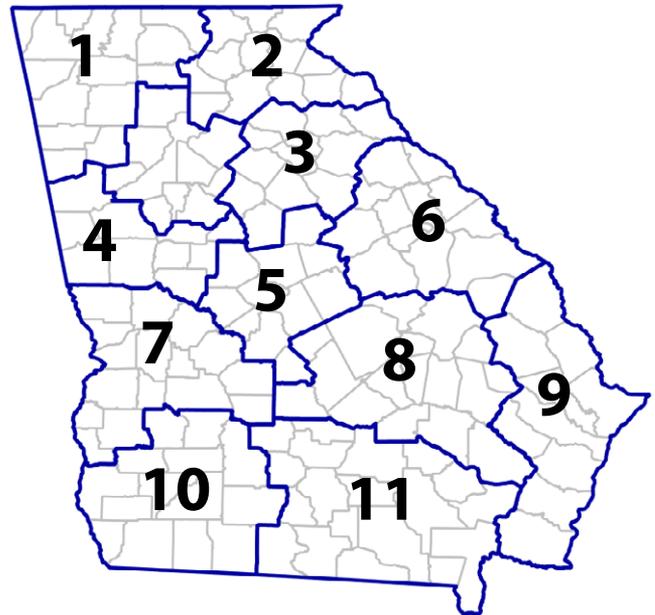
2. Georgia Mountains

Counties: Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union, White

Estimated Total Revenues: \$1.07 billion

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: < 1 percent

Notes: This project list is dominated by road widenings in



fast growing Forsyth and Hall Counties, including expansion of Ga. 400 to six lanes in Forsyth and four-laning a stretch of Cleveland Highway north of Gainesville, which will likely accelerate sprawl in still largely-rural northern Hall. The sole transit project is operational funding for existing GRTA express bus service from Forsyth to Atlanta.

3. Northeast Georgia

Counties: Barrow, Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Jackson, Jasper, Madison, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Walton

Estimated Total Revenues: \$840 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 2 percent

Notes: This district stretches from the eastern exurbs of Atlanta to the South Carolina border and contains the Athens area. The list includes a number of projects with a high risk for sprawl inducement, including new bypass roads around Winder, Monroe, and Monticello; new interchanges on I-85 and the Athens perimeter highway; and a number of rural road widenings. Comparatively small amounts are included for the Athens bus system and bicycle/pedestrian improvements.

4. Three Rivers

Counties: Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Heard, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup, Upson

Estimated Total Revenues: \$800 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 6 percent

Notes: This region consists of the crescent of exurban and rural counties south of the Atlanta area. Major projects include a \$50 million widening of SR 166 in Carroll County, bypass

2012 Elections

projects in Newnan and Bowdon, and two new interchanges on I-85. Transit funding consists of GRTA express bus service and assistance for rural transit programs in Coweta and Troup Counties. Also included is \$3 million to “study” the proposed Atlanta-Macon commuter rail line, a project that has been studied for decades, but no funding for implementation.

5. Middle Georgia

Counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson

Estimated Total Revenues: \$750 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 3 percent

Notes: This region is centered on Macon, where a major expansion of the I-75 / I-675 interchange would be funded. Major projects outside of Macon include segments of the “Fall Line Freeway” and bypasses around Eatonton and Milledgeville. Transit funding consists primarily of \$7 million for Macon’s bus system.

6. Central Savannah River Area

Counties: Burke, Columbia, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Lincoln, McDuffie, Richmond, Screven, Taliaferro, Warren, Washington, Wilkes

Estimated Total Revenues: \$720 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 2 percent

Notes: Focused on the Augusta area, this region’s largest single project is a \$50 million widening of SR 28 in the northern suburbs of Augusta, potentially opening up that area to another wave of sprawl. Other major projects include bypasses around Sandersville, Sparta, and Thomson. The major transit line item is \$7 million for operations of the existing bus service in Augusta; another project would improve sidewalks along a stretch of 15th St.

7. River Valley

Counties: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Webster

Estimated Total Revenues: \$510 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 7 percent

Notes: This region includes the Columbus area and the mostly rural counties to the south and east. Much of the funding is dedicated to road widenings, with major projects including US 27 in Randolph and Muscogee Counties and US 280 in Crisp County. The transit investment consists of expanding Columbus’ Metra bus system to include more express bus service from 3 new park-and-ride lots.

8. Heart of Georgia

Counties: Appling, Bleckley, Candler, Dodge, Emanuel, Evans, Jeff Davis, Johnson, Laurens, Montgomery, Tattnall, Tel-

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fair, Toombs, Treutlen, Wayne, Wheeler, Wilcox

Estimated Total Revenues: \$340 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: N/A

Notes: This heavily rural district is located roughly between Macon, Savannah, and Valdosta. The largest project is \$60 million for a widening of US 1 in Toombs County. None of the regionally-allocated funding was committed to transit or bicycle/pedestrian-focused projects.

9. Coastal

Counties: Bryan, Bulloch, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Glynn, Liberty, Long, McIntosh

Estimated Total Revenues: \$1.37 billion

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 10 percent

Notes: The Coastal district, centered on Savannah, would generate the most revenue of any district outside Atlanta. The largest allocations are \$100 million for the Effingham Parkway / “Georgia Portway” road and a \$77 million widening of US 301 in Bulloch County. Other significant road projects include bypasses in Statesboro and Hinesville and widening I-16 in Chatham County. This district also has the most significant transit investment outside Atlanta, with over \$100 million allocated for bus service in Savannah, Liberty County, and Long County.

10. Southwest Georgia

Counties: Baker, Calhoun, Colquitt, Decatur, Dougherty, Early, Grady, Lee, Miller, Mitchell, Seminole, Terrell, Thomas, Worth

Estimated Total Revenues: \$570 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: 2 percent

Notes: The largest allocations in this primarily rural district include \$86 million to widen SR 133 in Colquitt and Dougherty Counties, and \$30 million to widen and extend Clark Ave. in Albany. Small-scale transit investments are included in Bainbridge and Thomasville, and scattered sidewalk improvements are included as well.

11. Southern Georgia

Counties: Atkinson, Bacon, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brantley, Brooks, Charlton, Clinch, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, Pierce, Tift, Turner, Ware

Estimated Total Revenues: \$570 million

Percentage to Bike/Ped/Transit: N/A

Notes: Rural highway widening is the major focus for this list, with major projects including US 441 in Atkinson and Coffee Counties and SR 133 in Brooks County. Bypass highways are also a focus, with projects planned for Douglas, Fitzgerald, Tifton, and Waycross. None of the regionally-allocated funding was committed to transit or bicycle/pedestrian-focused projects.

Ben Hill Coal Plant Cancelled Plant Washington in Tenuous Position

Clean air advocates and environmental groups won a victory in April when Power4Georgians (P4G), the only company trying to develop expensive new coal plants in Georgia, agreed to cancel the proposed Ben Hill coal-fired power plant. The company also agreed to comply with critical new safeguards against mercury pollution and invest \$5 million in energy efficiency and renewable projects. The Sierra Club, the Fall Line Alliance for a Clean Environment (FACE), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), and the Ogeechee Riverkeeper, represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center and GreenLaw, successfully challenged the permit for Plant Washington issued by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, and the settlement agreement is pending approval by each group. If built, Power4Georgians' Plant Washington will have to meet the much more protective emission standards for mercury and other air toxins.

"Before we challenged the permit, Plant Washington was going to send forty times more mercury into our air and water each year, endangering our most vulnerable citizens," said Colleen Kiernan, Director of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club. "We knew the law was on our side, we challenged Power4Georgians, and now Georgia's air, water, and people will be protected."

Plant Washington now faces its steepest challenge yet, as EPA recently announced the carbon pollution rule for new coal-fired power plants, which will require new coal plants to reduce or capture their harmful carbon emissions. Power4Georgians had not considered carbon capture technology in the original Plant Washington proposal. In the rule, EPA identified Plant Washington as a potential "transitional" source whereby it could be exempt from the

rule if there is a final permit and construction commences within a year of when the rule is published.

Power4Georgians is a consortium of four remaining electric membership cooperatives in Georgia, after six additional co-operatives left the consortium citing cost concerns. Cobb EMC, the largest and most prominent investor in P4G, withdrew funding and support for the consortium and the Plant Washington proposal in January of this year, leaving a very small base of ratepayers to shoulder the full \$2.1+ billion cost of building the plant. Financial experts have questioned whether the current membership of Power4Georgians is sufficient to finance the plant's construction.

The cancellation of Plant Ben Hill marks 168 total coal plant proposals cancelled across the US due to changing market conditions, legal challenges, and local opposition. In December 2011, New Jersey-based LS Power cancelled the Plant Longleaf coal plant proposal, which would have been built in Early County, GA. Further, 106 coal plants have been scheduled for retirement, including two units at Plant Branch near Milledgeville that were recently approved by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

"The cancellation of Plant Ben Hill is just one more sign that coal is declining," says Justine Thompson, attorney for GreenLaw that has been working with the community adjacent to the proposed Plant Ben Hill to oppose the construction of the plant. "Georgia has a promising future – but to be a serious player in the global economy while also ensuring that we have clean air and water, Georgia needs to embrace energy efficiency and more renewable sources of energy. We are now moving one step closer to that goal."

Youth-Led Group Focuses On Retrofit Action



As a youth-led environmental justice organization based in Atlanta, GA, Retrofit A Million connects "communities of modest means" with water and energy efficiency service packages in order to catalyze a dialogue about sustainability through a unique field-based, service-learning opportunity. This service learning opportunity is called the Community Retrofit Day of Action (RDA) in which teams of volunteers spend 5 hours on a Saturday immersed in a ecological and community bridging delivery of Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) and Water Kits at no cost to residents. Volunteers are trained in safety, deliver, and installing these energy and cost saving efficiency packages by a well qualified staff with over 5 years of community organizing and weatherization experience. Our goal is to distribute 1 million CFLs by 2015 to help people save money on rising energy costs, as well as offset the polluting carbon emissions from some of our nations dirtiest coal-fired power plants which includes Plant Scherer located in Georgia.

In July 2012, Retrofit A Million is proud to host an upcoming RDA in Forest Park. If you are interested to join this unique service learning opportunity or would like to know more information about Retrofit A Million, please visit our website at www.retrofitamilion.org.

Sierrans Explore Georgia on John Muir Outings

For a second straight year, the Chapter marked the birthday of Sierra Club founder John Muir with a special month-long outings series. Below are some of the highlights.

Darby Farms, April 7

On April 7 Sierrans explored Darby Farms in Good Hope, Ga., a leader in Georgia's pastured poultry movement. Following are some of the participant reactions:



"We had a great time at Darby Farms. It was so nice to meet a farmer who understands the value of organic and sustainable farming. We enjoyed seeing all the animals and learning about farming methods. Thanks!" - Christi Sizemore Behrend

"I loved the way Farmer Daniel explained his sustainable farming practices and how it contributes to a healthier environment for all of us. I also liked that he did not demonize other farmers, but rather recognized their struggles and challenges of working within Georgia's factory-farming system. And lastly, I loved seeing the chickens and pigs, and holding the puppies and sharing that time with other interested Sierra Club people!" -Lynn Beach

"The tour of Daniel's organic farm was one of the most enjoyable Sierra outings I've participated in. Daniel was a gracious host and a patient and an informative guide. His farm is a model of the humane manner in which farm animals should be raised." -Brenda Constan

Chattahoochee Bend, April 14



This overnight outing explored Georgia's newest state park, Chattahoochee Bend near Newnan. Said participant Mike Marotta: *"Great outdoors. Great food. Great people. And I learned something! This was my first Sierra Club outing but it most certainly will not be my last."*

Waters Creek, April 21



On April 21st, Larry Winslett and Bob Springfield led an outing in Northeast Georgia in the Chestatee Wildlife Management Area. The outing was a hike along beautiful Dicks Creek and Waters Creek where the group enjoyed two scenic waterfalls. Larry provided information about several sites on the trail with issues of environmental concern. The group observed threatened hemlock trees and a predator beetle research site where experiments are being conducted by North Georgia College and State University. Also, the group learned about some of the forest management practice of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. This included viewing a "food plot" where sizeable areas are plowed up and planted with sometimes-invasive plants to attract wildlife for hunters.

Call for Chapter Excom Nominations

The Chapter Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the Executive Committee (ExCom). The Chapter ExCom has oversight responsibility for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to ensure that it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know of someone who would be a good ExCom member, or if you are interested in serving yourself, contact David Emory at david.emory@gmail.com no later than August 15, 2012. Chapter and Group candidate statements and any nomination petitions for petition candidates must be submitted by September 1, 2012. You may refer to the Georgia Sierra Club website (www.gasierraclub.org) to review the responsibilities of ExCom.

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

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

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

July 10: Sustainability & Candidate Endorsements

Two of our own group leaders will do the program. Jack Harich will be discussing sustainability issues. Eddie Ehlert will inform us of the candidates running for Congress, Georgia General Assembly, Public Service Commission and other offices. He will detail their stands on issues and why certain ones should be elected compared to others who don't do much for the environment or actually are bad for our state's land, water, air and wildlife.

August 14: Population Issues with Todd Daniel

Todd is an At-Large Elected Member of the Georgia Chapter Ex-Com and Population issue leader, who will discuss that issue with us. Learn about the pros and cons of having too many people with diminishing resources.

September 18: Geologist/Arborist Dave Butler

Dave Butler, a Professional Geologist and Certified Arborist, is Greenspace Environment Manager for DeKalb County involved in land acquisition for parks, natural resource management (including invasive plant control), historic preservation, and community volunteer coordination.

Adopt-a-Stream Program

September (Date TBA) : Peachtree Creek clean-up at Morningside Nature Preserve

Our group will join with other groups to collect trash from this section of the creek. This is a fairly new preserve, but trash washes in from upstream. Please come and help us "take the trash out."

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

Meeting Location: *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.*

Outdoor Activity Center Adds New Garden Innovation



In January, Darryl Haddock with West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) spoke to our group about what their organization has been doing. One major project was to re-open the Outdoor Activity Center,

1442 Richland Rd. S.W., Atlanta, GA 30310.

"OAC's environmental education programs engage local youth, ranging from elementary to college age in service learning activities and seek to impact the visitor's attitudes and behaviors about nature through interpretive hikes along trails in our 26-acre old growth forest." -- from their website, <http://www.wawaonline.org>.

Besides the "wild" area, they also have garden plots: Pollinator Habitat, UGRO Community Garden, and Bioponica Sustainable Farming System, which has been added recently. Dr David Epstein "developed an integrated system for his home and is marketing this system as a new totally sustainable way to garden and produce food!" It is constructed with a frame that holds the tubes. They cut the tubes in half for the growing sections, which are filled with coarse gravel that is covered by water on a regular schedule, and then the water drains to the tubes underneath. Those have a 6" wide opening along the top, so it is easy to pour in duckweed, which is food for the fish. The water pumped from there contains fish waste to fertilize the plants on top. Also, bags of leaves, including kudzu, rot in a pool area of a top section that provides nutrients for the duckweed. Around and around the water goes, stopping on schedule, then flooding the crop areas, only to drain away. Over the area is a screening mesh that allows about 70% of the sunlight, so the plants get plenty of sun, but don't get too much that might stress them, plus the screened light is more pleasant for the people. One of the other growing areas was the practice field for the Negro League team, the "Black Crackers."

The OAC Visitor Center has good displays of flora and fauna, and a meeting room is available for outside groups. Staff members give programs and lead guided hikes, also. The facilities have many areas with children in mind, so OAC would be a good place to bring younger family members for a visit. WAWA also does Adopt-A-Stream Monitoring for water quality by sampling Proctor Creek. One of their former staff members, Bruce Morton, is an At-Large Elected Member of the Executive Committee of the Georgia Chapter. For more information, contact WAWA at 404-752-5385 or via e-mail at info.wawaonline@gmail.com

- D. Gordon Draves

Inner City Outings joins Atlanta Group for Adopt-a-Stream Trip



On March 10, eight youth from Warren-Holyfield Boys and Girls Club (with four Atlanta Inner City Outings leaders and volunteers) joined the Metro Atlanta Group - Sierra Club team that monitors the status of the South Fork of

Peachtree Creek (Medlock Park in Decatur) as part of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. The kids were great, and it was a delight to hear them oohhhing and aahhing at the critters we found. The outing began with an explanation of how water quality affects aquatic biodiversity, and then the youth were able to see how the temperature, chemistry, and biota of the water are measured. The most fun part was sifting through buckets of leaves and sediment from the creek to find and identify clams and mussels, black fly larvae, aquatic worms, dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, and caddis flies. They also saw several mallard ducks and small fish. The Sierra Club survey team gave excellent explanations of how stream monitoring works, and were very patient with the children's questions. After the survey, there was time for hiking along the stream, skipping rocks, and rummaging through the strange things in the sand before a picnic lunch. In the afternoon, the group hiked to the old Decatur Water Works, and enjoyed climbing on the ruins and playing in the creek. After a closing snack at Medlock Park, the group headed back to the Boys & Girls Club.

Gwinnett Update

June – The month of basketball championships, newspapers dying and the prelude to a very hot election begins its turn of the cycle. How appropriate that hot weather has arrived.

As the temperature rises, the Gwinnett Group has been busy. Art Sheldon presenting the Sierra Club's position on the T-SPLOST to the Democratic Party. In July, we will give a presentation of our T-SPLOST position at a Georgia Gwinnett College forum with the Tea Party also participating. Whoever thought that the Sierra Club would be presenting to both of these groups?

Our Stream Monitoring program is in full swing as we continue to monitor the chemical and bacterial makeup of Suwannee Creek. Come out and join our efforts to monitor the health of this stream. Recently, David Emory discussed the T-SPLOST. In April, Fred Conrad with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, discussed community gardens and the benefits to neighborhoods across the Atlanta region.

Our June meeting was our annual picnic at McDaniel Farm Park where we concentrate our efforts on great food and conversation. In the second half of the year we will be speaking to groups around Gwinnett on environmental issues that are interested to each of the groups. Meeting topics planned for our group will include Plant Vogtle, Chattahoochee River and, of course, politics. Come and see what the Sierra Club is doing in Gwinnett.

-Dan Friedman



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Centennial Group Aids in River Cleanup

On Saturday May 19, Sierra Club members met at the Powers Island unit of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to meet up with the National Park Service to do a river cleanup. They were going to supply canoes so we could do a float down the river while cleaning up trash along the way.

When we arrived at the site, we were notified that the truck, which shuttles the canoes, had a flat tire so they had to cancel on us. We gathered and discussed what to do and decided to move forward and just walk around the area and pick up trash.

As Roger Buerke was picking up trash, he ran into his old friend Bubba of High Country Outfitters, who was renting tubes and rafts for people to float down the river. Roger told him of our situation and he offered us free rentals since we were doing such a great service.

We proceeded down the river picking up lots of various trash along the way. Four bags were collected; some of the items included were numerous tennis balls, bottles, plastic bags, Styrofoam, and cans, along with a Chic-Fil-A compass, highlighters, a tire, shoes, and a beach ball. We had a wonderful time and if no one has ever seen Roger attempting to paddle with 2 sticks on a tube, you have really missed out!

The park service has offered June 30th to us as a make-up date. If you are interested in joining us on this day, please contact Carina at carina_do@yahoo.com or Ina at allison@LOMA.org

Cordillera Blanca Expeditions!

At our May 3 meeting, alpinist and group member Frank Nederhand did an excellent presentation on his personal involvement with the the Cordillera Blanca Peru Environmental Expeditions of 2009 and 2011. As part of these expeditions, besides climbing in the tallest mountain range in the tropics, Frank was also a member of the scientific team measuring air and environmental quality in the Andes of Peru.

Frank's accompanying slide-show was a mixture of climbing photos, scientific data and tables, and candid shots taken in the base camp area. It was almost as if we had our own private National Geographic special.

Frank discussed some of the issues they faced working in Peru, both cultural and governmental, such as the absence of public waste water treatment plants, and the increase in water pollution due to growth of the local indigenous population. And related to these issues was the increase in bottled water use, which, in turn, required more landfill space.

One of the most interesting parts of the evening was the display of mountaineering gear necessary not just for climbing, but for survival at high altitudes under all kinds of condi-

tions. There was an entire table top, piled high with gear such as ropes, carabineers, helmet, avalanche shovel, and so on. Although at first it seemed like a lot of gear, it really emphasized the fact that not only is safety paramount, but being able to anticipate and be prepared for any eventuality is just as important.

The Dolphin Project

At our June 7 meeting, Don Bender of the Dolphin Project spoke to the Centennial Group about the wild estuarine bottlenose dolphins along the Georgia and southern South Carolina coast.

As a surprise to many, these differ from the dolphins that live in the open ocean, not to mention the fact that they are NOT porpoises and the terms really shouldn't be used interchangeably, at least when discussing these animals.

The presentation described their habitat, their behavior in feeding strategies, mating, and self-protection. And, of course, their playfulness.

Don spoke about their outstanding intelligence as well as some widely accepted myths that are not accurate. He also spoke of the challenges these dolphins face, particularly from human activity. The challenges were featured in a slide show/discussion about what the Dolphin Project is doing to mitigate some of these issues, through the activities of the Dolphin Project in research and education for the purpose of protection.

Centennial Photo Contest

On August 2, the Centennial Group will be having our 3rd annual photo contest. Registration begins at 6:45. It is limited to 3 entries per person. Cost is \$3 for 1 picture, \$5 for 2 pictures, and \$6 for 3 pictures.

We ask that each picture is a minimum of 5x7 and is mounted so that it can be stuck to the wall. As last year, we have 3 categories: Landscapes, Animals (no domestic or farm animals), and Parks.

First, second and third place prizes will be awarded for each category and prizes are TBA. Margery Diamond of Nature Journeys Photography and Nicholas Cole at the Avery Gallery will be our judges. Margery will also be showing us her pictures of Yosemite during the meeting.

So while you are out on vacation this summer, take some pictures to come show us in August. We look forward to everyone participating!

Savannah River Group

SRG Spring Fundraiser a Success

Our spring rummage sale, which we coordinated with the Unitarian Universalist Church, brought us sufficient funds to meet our yearly expenses for this fiscal year. And we had a wonderful time finding and offering bargains in books, clothing, furniture, kitchen appliances- you name it!



Left: Laurie Booher & Olivia Lindsey-Sabory are nearly buried in kitchen items! Right: Greg Sutherland admires a donated refrigerator

Summer Outings and Events

Our summer outings will feature a July 3 Phinizy Swamp full moon walk from 9pm-11pm. Also in July we will go spelunking (caving) at Sinking Cove in Alabama, one of the best caves in the region.



Edible Partridge Berry photographed on one of our outings to Mistletoe State Park in April and May. (No, it isn't very tasty!)

We take our usual summer break with no monthly meetings in July and August, but we are planning some informal get-togethers including a possible beach trip. Anyone interested in our future outings and meetings can check our website to see what's cooking:

<http://georgia.sierraclub.org/srg/nltr/SRSierran.pdf>

- Judy Gordon, Co-Chair



photo by Marco Sarnat

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Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



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Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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,
edehlert@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,
edehlert@bellsouth.net

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

Training Team Coordinator: *vacant*

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Conservation Campaigns

RAIL Committee:

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

Smart Energy Solutions:

Vacant; contact Seth Gunning, 404-607-1262 x233
or seth.gunning@sierraclub.org
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.

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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/>

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

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Your message should read:

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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., July 21st at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x. 221.



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Outings & Events

Find your local chapter outings
@ www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter



Return of Sierra Club & Beer?

You've told us that you want Sierra Club and Beer back. Well, so do we! Help us re-start this Georgia Chapter tradition. For information on how you can help, contact Sybil (sybil.cypress@sierraclub.org) | (404) 607-1262, ext. 221

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, August 11th** 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.

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