



# Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

## Time to Pull Plug on Plant Vogtle Expansion?

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# Cumberland Island Still a Wilderness Gem

By Colleen Kiernan

The Sierra Club has a long and intense involvement with Cumberland Island, the largest and most undeveloped barrier island on the East Coast. Sierra Club was there in the early days when then-Executive Director David Brower met with developer Charles Fraser (of Hilton Head fame) and urged for 10% development and 90% protection, we worked on the legislation to designate it a National Seashore and for the upper two-thirds to be designated as wilderness and were involved in every major battle since. The one that is still being waged today is around legislation that Congressman Kingston passed in 2004, which was the first de-designation of wilderness, carving out Grand Avenue and the beach to allow for mechanized vehicles and mandating daily van tours of the island, which we strenuously opposed.

On a recent trip to Cumberland, my first since the National Park Service van tours began last summer, I paid special attention to whether the driving up and down the road and beach negatively affected my experience. While the Kingston bill mandated five to eight trips per day, the Park Service was offering two a day in late September.

My party of four was the only group of about 40 on the ferry that had selected backcountry camping. (Full disclosure: we took it easy at Stafford Beach, which has a bathhouse. The option to shower significantly increases the amount of time I am interested in sleeping in a tent). There were a few camping at Sea Camp and the rest were day-trippers, almost all of whom went on the van tour.

Hanging out the beach was blissful and quiet, marred more by the paper mill across the river and the really disappointing amount of trash that has washed up on the shore than the few NPS trucks driving up and down the beach. On our third day on the island, we got up before sunrise and set out north up the beach to watch the sun come up and walk the 12 or so miles to check out the Settlement on the North End.



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

We arrived at the church and a van tour of three people was there. It was kind of nice getting to hear the Ranger's spiel and ask him where the water and bathrooms were. I was very surprised that my better half did not ask for a ride back to our camp, as I was secretly hoping he would because my shoes had filled with sand and were growing smaller with every step I took. I banged them on a picnic table hundreds of times and got most of it out, making the next 12 miles seem possible. We ate a quick lunch and started the long journey back down the main road, checking out Brickhill Bluff campsite on the way. At about Yankee Paradise, it started raining. By Hickory Hill, it was pouring.

A ranger truck drove by us headed north. We looked back at it wistfully as the taillights were obscured by the storm. Lightning cracked above us, I have never heard closer thunder or been less prepared to be in the rain for hours. About a half hour later, the truck came back south, with the two rangers it picked up on the north end. The kind ranger offered us a ride to "The Field" about two miles down and close to Stafford Beach. We gratefully accepted and climbed into the bed of the truck.

While I am still concerned about the potential for a "slippery slope" that may result from this wilderness "de-designation," my personal opinion is that the van tours are not the end of the world. I wish that the negotiations back in 2003 had not been upended by Kingston's legislation and that a compromise could have been reached. Cumberland Island has private residents who can use the road, electricity throughout the island and the arduousness of the walk up to the North End (even for those of us who are in reasonably good shape). The van tours may help get people to explore the island who otherwise may not. I hope that the folks on my ferry who went on the tour gained appreciation for the gem that is Cumberland Island and will get involved in issues in their own corner of the planet when development is inappropriate or another place has the potential to be protected.

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

## 2012 Election Preview

By **Eddie Ehlert**, *Political Chair*

Well fellow exasperated environmentalists, it's election time again. This year, it is more important than any other (at least in my lifetime) to get out and vote for the remaining available environmental leaders on the ballot.

Redistricting in the General Assembly this year has effectively cut the number of solid environmental by a third. Think about that for a minute. In the Metro Atlanta area, some of our best environmental leaders were paired against one another in an attempt to reduce their numbers and diminish the voice of their constituents! This was a bare knuckled attempt to give free-rein to unhealthy business models by eliminating the senators and representatives who had the audacity to support the will of the voters!

With that reality in mind, it is clearly not hyperbole to suggest this might be the most important vote you have ever made to protect the remaining environmental voices in the Legislature. If things tip far enough to guarantee a two-thirds majority in the House and Senate, it will take a generation to recover from the damage! Everything from landfills over percolation zones, injecting treated sewage injection into aquifers, elimination of stream buffer protection, more mercury in the air and water all become reality with routine voice votes. Without enough representatives to say no and more than enough to follow the will of the dollars, Georgia citizens will lose the things that we have worked so hard to protect and that belong to ALL of us.

There is also a chance to encourage safe and sane energy policy in the only two major statewide races this November. The Public Service Commission races have two endorsed candidates who may have a chance to dethrone the Georgia PSC from the dubious title of 'worst in the nation.' PSC races are often overlooked as the average person does not pay that much attention to what the Commission does or who the Commissioners are. Suffice it to say they are who

saddled Georgia voters with pre-paying all the construction costs of Vogtle 3 and 4 (that extra \$4.00 on your electric bill each month). They are also the gatekeepers preventing broader growth in photovoltaic solar construction on homes, businesses and government buildings.

It's that simple. The entities that stand to 'profit' from destruction of Georgia's natural resources seem to feel they have 'waited too long' and they have consistently been able to support the election of senators and representatives most malleable to support profit over protection. The scariest part is they all still have to breathe clean air and drink clean water. Their children are not immune from the well documented hazards they seek to inflict on the land, air and water. Yet the lure of profit seems to have a greater attraction than preventing damage to the resources up which we are all dependent.

I can't stress it enough. This election is a big deal for everyone you know who breathes air or drinks water. Without our voices in government, the disaster will come and recovery will cost more than the largest tax increases ever proposed. It's up to you to vote in YOUR interest because that is the same as all Georgia's interest.

### 2012 Primary Election Highlights

While attention is now turned to the November contests, there are several items of note from the July primaries.

The closely-watched transportation sales taxes or **T-SPLOSTs**, which the Chapter opposed, failed in 9 of the 12 regions, including Metro Atlanta. An open letter from Colleen reflecting on the Sierra Club's experience can be read on the Chapter website.

At a more local level, incorporation of the **City of Brookhaven** passed, with potential impacts for the Nancy Creek watershed. Municipal elections will be held in November; contact Eddie Ehlert (edehkert@bellsouth.net) for additional information.

### Georgia Chapter General Election Endorsements

The following Candidates have been helpful in forwarding the agenda of the Sierra Club and deserve our endorsement in the November 2012 election:

#### U.S. Congress

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

#### Public Service Commission

District 3 - Stephen Oppenheimer  
District 5 - David Staples

#### Georgia State Senate

SD 5 - Curt Thompson  
SD 6 - Doug Stoner  
SD 15 - Ed Harbison  
SD 38 - Horacena Tate  
SD 43 - Jason Carter

#### Georgia State House

HD 12 - Barbara Massey Reece  
HD 16 - Rick Crawford  
HD 39 - Alisha Thomas Morgan  
HD 53 - Sheila Jones  
HD 58 - Simone Bell  
HD 59 - Margaret Kaiser  
HD 75 - Yasmin Neal  
HD 77 - Darryl Jordan  
HD 81 - Scott Holcomb  
HD 86 - Michele Henson  
HD 93 - Dar'shun Kendrick  
HD 96 - Pete Marin  
HD 125 - Earnest Smith  
HD 132 - Carl Von Epps  
HD 136 - Carolyn Hugley  
HD 137 - Debbie Buckner  
HD 142 - Nikki Randall  
HD 153 - Carol Fullerton  
HD 169 - Chuck Sims

# Public Service Commission

*The Chapter has offered space in this issue to both of its endorsed candidates for the Public Service Commission. These statements were provided by the respective campaigns.*

## Stephen Oppenheimer (District 3)

Over the last five years homeowners have paid more than \$5 billion for electricity rate increases and have begun prepaying the finance charged for a \$14 billion nuclear power reactor project. The lack of transparency in the current Public Service Commission and the daunting disparity between what ratepayers want and what they end up shelling out is one Steve Oppenheimer hopes to reshape.

The retired dentist and father of three is recognized for his years working as a community activist.

Between a decade spent working on U.S.-Israel security, the issue of energy independence and his time in volunteer and leadership positions, Oppenheimer has amassed more than 30 years of real-world experience giving everyday people a voice.

Oppenheimer's been involved with many different organizations and causes. To date, he has served on energy initiatives like the Department of Energy's Clean-Cities Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta Plug in Vehicle Task Force and Set America Free.org, has held leadership positions at the Epstein School, The Weber School, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and most extensively at Hillels of Georgia and is a Coalition Member of Analysis of Global Security, a Washington, D.C. group focusing on energy security.

The transition from community advocacy to Georgia politics may seem like a leap, but according to Oppenheimer, it was the logical next step to benefit Peach state families. The long time green energy advocate has spent the last decade working on energy security and energy independence issues and says these are key issues to strengthening and diversifying Georgia's energy portfolio.

"I tend to do things that are future focused. Hopefully my three sons will raise their families in Georgia, but what this state looks like tomorrow will be shaped by the energy policies made today," he said. "How we make energy impacts our air, water and quality of life. We need to continue expanding our energy portfolio from the measly three percent renewables we have right now. Utilizing more sources like solar, biomass and wind are key to not only protecting our environment but to ensuring the future of our state."

While Oppenheimer acknowledges the campaign trail will be long and demanding leading up to his November square off with Chuck Eaton, the incumbent vying for re-election, he has never been one to shy away from a challenge.

"I thought through the decision to seek office very carefully, because I know the commitment it will require — it's a full time job. But the stakes are high for the people of and the state of Georgia. We need to be making the right decisions today to ensure we have a better tomorrow with enough jobs and affordable energy here in Georgia," he said. "I want to serve to shape a brighter future. I understand the issues. I understand the challenges. I will work diligently to be a first rate public

servant who makes sure the decisions about Georgia's energy policy put the interest of Georgia families first."

We will be working between now and May to make sure that Cobb EMC Board candidates will get to the bottom of the Plant Washington proposal. A forensic audit has been called for, which will shed light on some of the questions that Cobb EMC has never answered about the proposed Plant Washington, such as, is the capacity really needed, is coal the least cost option, and have insiders gained through the development process at the expense of the ratepayers? Stay tuned, this is the best democracy in action Georgia has seen in years!

## David Staples (District 5)

One of the most frequent topics that comes up in political conversation these days is ethics. On July 31st, Georgians overwhelmingly voted that there needs to be a cap on the amount of gifts our elected officials are allowed to accept. However, there are many of us who believe that even a \$100 per day cap is still too much - that perhaps \$0 is a better cap. After all, looking at the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission website, one can see that while the \$150 rounds of golf and several hundred dollar dinners for the official and their spouse may be eliminated, there are many more of the smaller lunches, dinners, and various other goodies that would still be allowed. Would you be surprised to hear that some Public Service Commissioners walk out of their office or a hearing at lunch time and say "I'm hungry, where's a lobbyist?"

However, there is one completely legal process by which we can eliminate all gifts that doesn't require further legislation - the voting booth. Every Georgia voter has a voice this November 6th to help decide who we are going to put into the various offices around the state. If we decide that ethics do indeed matter, then we should cast our vote for the candidate that best reflects those values - without regard for the party letter beside that candidate's name. The choice is yours - do you vote for someone who has received \$14,000 in gifts from lobbyists in just their last term and who accepted \$10,000 in campaign contributions just two days before voting on the case those very contributors were presenting? Or is it time to oust some of these 18 year incumbents in favor of a fresh face in their seat?

You be the judge: <http://gareport.com/blog/2012/07/18/its-legal-but-is-it-right/>

There is a reason that politicians have gone from what was once a respected position to a position that is now the target of a number of jokes. People have come to expect that politicians are dirty and are actually surprised when they come across one that is not. One by one and seat by seat voters have the ability to replace those elected officials that aren't doing what we elected them to do and are taking advantage of the position that we put them in. I urge everyone to thoroughly research every race you cast a ballot for. Let our elected officials know that you too believe: Ethics Matter.

Georgia Sierran 🌿 October/November/December 2012

# Overruns, Uncertainty Plague Vogtle Expansion

By **Steve Willis**, Chapter Vice Chair,  
Center for a Sustainable Coast Board  
President

It is now time for Georgians to start panicking about the Southern Company project to build two new nuclear reactors at the Vogtle nuclear site near Augusta. Construction has barely started and cost projections have skyrocketed. Two months ago overruns were already predicted to be a billion dollars; today they are approaching two billion. Serious construction irregularities have been sited, contractors are litigating, and schedules are slipping significantly. Dr. William Jacobs, the official independent monitor of the project, has revealed that Southern Company's construction planning is focused on immediate tasks, with work which must be done in the future inadequately defined. Jacobs is on record that this makes confident verification of long-run schedules and costs impossible. With at least five years of likely overruns before the completion of the first reactor, it is time to pull the plug on this ill-advised project.

Shortly after the Vogtle project was permitted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission this February, Stan Wise, Chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC), announced that the project had "\$2 billion in the ground and \$13 billion to go." In other words, without even having a permit in hand, Southern Company had already put two billion dollars of rate-payer funds into the deep concrete hole of the reactor's foundation.

The "Nuclear Construction Cost Recovery" charge on your Georgia Power bill is an advance payment which covers Southern Company's costs and guaranteed profits during the new reactor construction. Southern Company owns Georgia Power. This payment is a gift from you to Southern Company and its stockholders. You will receive no electricity or service for it, the use or investment of this money will be taken from you, and no matter how much



profit Southern Company makes from the Vogtle project, none of it will be shared with you.

This pre-payment law, known as Construction Work In Progress (CWIP), was passed in 2009 by the Georgia legislature. The Georgia CWIP legislation generally excuses major corporations from these advance charges, thus avoiding their opposition, and places the CWIP burden and risk squarely on the residential rate payer. The CWIP law amounts to a state-mandated tax, aimed specifically at residential electricity consumers, providing full risk protection and profit to a private corporation, with no cap on what the public may ultimately be required to pay.

The Federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) reported (even before the precipitous fall in natural gas prices and the Fukushima disaster) that nuclear construction projects such as the Vogtle expansion have no better than a 50-50 chance of ever being completed. If Southern Company abandons this project, the CWIP law not only allows Southern Company to keep all of the CWIP payments legally extorted from customers, but allows them to keep CWIP fees in place or even increase them until all their costs and profits have been fully recovered. Due to the run-away cost overruns, the CWIP charge on your monthly bill is already more than three times what Southern Company confi-

dently claimed it would be at this time when they presented their case to "your" Georgia legislature in 2009.

A special commission of the Japanese Congress (known as the "Diet"), concluded that "[Fukushima] cannot be regarded as a natural disaster. It was a profoundly man-made disaster -- that could and should have been foreseen and prevented. [...] Governments, regulatory authorities and Tokyo Electric Power [TEPCO] lacked a sense of responsibility to protect people's lives and society. [...] They effectively betrayed the nation's right to be safe from nuclear accidents. Therefore, we conclude that the accident was clearly 'man-made.'" Viewed from both a public safety as well as financial point of view, these words seem to apply quite clearly to the team effort of Southern Company, the Georgia Legislature, and the Public Service Commission to ram-rod the Vogtle expansion through the approval process.

Dr. Arjun Makhijani, President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, recently noted that, "The Vogtle cost increase should not be a surprise; rather it is déjà vu all over again. Rushing nuclear power reactors is not prudent and stockholders and/or the vendors, not ratepayers, should bear the burden of such costs. It would be much better if construction were suspended until all design issues were resolved."

By "déjà vu all over again" Makihi-

jani was referring to the stunning overruns on the first two Vogtle reactors completed less than thirty years ago. After endless cost increases and construction delays, Southern Company's initial "confident" estimate of \$600 million ballooned more than 12 times to over \$9 billion dollars – of which Southern Company received cost recovery and profit up to about \$8.5 billion – probably the greatest overrun-driven windfall profit ever received by an American "regulated" monopoly utility. There were some penalties for costs over the overrun limit of about 8.5 billion dollars, but through a series of legal actions Southern Company recovered much of them.

If the on-going construction of the third and fourth nuclear reactors at Vogtle produce overruns and delays proportionate to the first Vogtle project, Georgia rate-payers could be looking at a bill from Southern Company for more than \$150 billion dollars. This amounts to about eight times the total annual Georgia state budget, or enough to pay for 25 Savannah River deepenings. Nuclear advocates are correct when they say that kind of overrun can't happen now, (although isn't it unreasonable to be absolutely sure that what happened thirty years ago won't happen again, especially under very similar circumstances?). Georgians can be fairly confident that before cost projections exceed thirty billion for the Vogtle expansion, all financing avenues will be exhausted and even the ever-pliable Georgia Legislature will shy away from extorting still more money from the Georgia residential customers. This does not mean Southern Company's executives or stockholders will lose a cent. In this rigged game of corporate entitlements, Southern Company cannot lose. The State of Georgia is on the hook to reimburse Southern Company for full costs, and a guaranteed profit of about 12%. Southern Company's windfall profits could easily exceed their profits from Vogtle in the 1980s, but this time the Georgia rate payers are likely to end up with nothing to show for it but perpetually inflated

power bills for the rest of their lives.

A perfect storm of negative circumstances almost guarantees the failure of Vogtle 3 and 4.

Back in the late 1990s and early years of the 21st century, growing awareness of the role of carbon emissions in climate change among the informed public (including corporate monopoly power utility executives), seemed to provide a rationale for restarting the American and European nuclear reactor construction industry – a project which became known as the "Nuclear Renaissance."

The nuclear industry had failed in the 1980s after Three Mile Island and widespread, uncontrollable construction delays and cost overruns. Additionally, inability to dispose of ultra-hazardous nuclear waste, the danger of proliferation of nuclear materials, and the tendency for these multi-billion dollar steam engines (sometimes called the most expensive and dangerous way to boil water known to man) to break down, sometimes irreparably, posed challenges which still have not been adequately addressed. Today the new "Nuclear Renaissance" still faces these same old issues, plus many new ones:

- The skilled workers and manufacturing base, which enabled the pre-Three Mile Island boom in American nuclear reactors, are gone and must be re-established almost from scratch.
- Very few new nuclear reactors have been built in Europe during the past twenty years, and those built even recently have experienced delays and cost overruns very similar to those incurred in America during the 1980s. This does not bode well for the "Nuclear Renaissance".
- Only the corporate monopoly utilities in "regulated" states, mostly the Southeast, in which full cost and profit are guaranteed by the State government, are interested in building new nuclear facilities. Few power companies in free enterprise states are willing to put their stockholders or capital at risk by investing in new nuclear reactors. Fully 15 out of the 19 requests for new nuclear

reactors now submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission came from "regulated" Southern states.

The bad news for the "Nuclear Renaissance" has kept piling up.

The issue of water availability, a secondary consideration in 2000, is now among the greatest public concerns. Water-cooled steam turbine nuclear reactors such as Vogtle consume (evaporate) more water than any other power generation source. Unprecedentedly persistent heat and drought throughout many areas of the United States, particularly the Southeast, magnify the risks associated with reactor water demands. If the Vogtle expansion is completed, the plant will routinely evaporate more than 100 million gallons of fresh water a day, and will have to shut down during periods of extreme heat and drought.

To everyone's surprise, the price of natural gas plummeted as fossil fuel corporations began to deploy their "fracking" technology on a continental scale in the first decade of the 21st century. John Rowe, CEO of Exelon Corp (America's largest owner-operator of power-generating nuclear reactors) recently commented that "Gas will be queen for a very long time." Rowe asserted that generating electricity with natural gas is now the clear choice for low cost power production in the US, and gas can provide a breathing space to sort out options, as well as provide a "bridge" to help integrate solar and wind power with older means of power production. Excellon plans on focusing on solar, wind, and gas in its foreseeable future. Dr. Mark Cooper, a nationally known utility and rate analyst, estimates that using cheaper alternatives instead of squandering money on the Summer reactor project in South Carolina, could save ratepayers as much as \$8 billion over the life of the project.

Besides the huge economic benefits of low and dependable construction costs for new gas power generation, natural gas, like wind and solar, has the tremendous benefit of "scalability." This means that new power generation can be deployed at old or new sites quickly and

# Conservation

economically, but only when justified by actual current demand. This is far wiser than making big, irreversible, long-term bets at public risk by gambling on unscalable, super-hazardous, super-expensive nuclear reactors.

Just as the relative price advantages of gas over nuclear were becoming apparent, the Fukushima disaster occurred. Japan and Germany almost immediately committed to disengage from new nuclear reactors and ultimately decommission the units already in service. France has adopted a wait-and-see policy, and the once pro-nuclear Britain has its new nuclear plans on hold.

Japan's turning away from nuclear power following Fukushima is likely to impact American nuclear construction. The Japanese company Toshiba is the owner of Westinghouse, which produces the AP-1000 – the reactor slated to be used both in Summer and Vogtle. Indeed, all of the 12 new reactors permitted or requesting permitting in North

Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida are AP-1000s. Japan's disavowal of nuclear will almost certainly have a negative impact on Japan's future production of AP-1000 components, as well as their cost and timely availability.

Georgia and South Carolina now find themselves out in the cold. The new nuclear projects at Vogtle and Summer are under construction, but instead of the 17 new reactors anticipated to be built concurrently with them, there are now none. Analysts are very skeptical that any new nuclear plants will be started in the US for a very long time, and the most likely new start-ups in Florida are now many years away from their most optimistic ground-breaking targets.

Everyone has heard the saying "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me." If the Vogtle expansion costs balloon, as many analysts expect, it will cost the people of Georgia dearly. Whether cool heads prevail and the

Vogtle expansion overruns are ended by an early decision to stop work, or if Southern Company and its supporters keep stone-walling as costs spiral into the stratosphere, it certainly seems unthinkable that Georgia will remain silent and let Southern Company once again walk away unscathed with a boatload of windfall profit.

The people of Georgia deserve a thorough investigation of how we got to this point. If it can be shown that Southern Company or their accomplices under the Gold Dome intentionally misled the people of Georgia as to the need, benefits or probable costs of this extraordinarily expensive boondoggle, every possibility for prosecution should be pursued.

For business to prosper in Georgia in the future, it must be made crystal clear that massive, economically disastrous political boondoggles at the expense of the public are no longer acceptable here.



photo by Marco Serrini

## 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.

**Help protect our animal friends; because once they're gone, they're gone. Join Sierra Club now.**

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# Hundreds Tell Governor, Congress: Wind Works for Georgia!

## *Tybee Island Leaders and Residents Show Support for Georgia Wind Power*

By Seth Gunning

On Friday August 31st over three-hundred Savannah-area residents joined the Sierra Club and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, local elected officials, and employees working in the clean energy industry to rally in support of Georgia wind energy and the good jobs it can create. The event, called “Wind Works for Georgia Jobs Rally” kicked-off the Labor Day weekend by highlighting Georgia’s growing wind energy component manufacturing jobs base, and calling on Georgia Governor Nathan Deal, and Georgia’s congressional delegation to take action to protect and grow Georgia’s good wind energy jobs.

You see, America’s second fastest-growing energy industry is in dire straits because of inaction from Georgia’s state and federal elected officials.

In 2011, the American wind energy industry grew by more than 31%, adding more than 6,800 megawatts (MW) of new clean power to America’s grid. The industry directly employs over 75,000 Americans – mostly in the manufacturing sector where the 8,000 components of a single wind turbine are built and assembled.

Although Georgia currently has no utility scale wind energy projects, our state has managed to attract more than 30 wind energy business- mostly manufacturers who provide parts and services to America’s fast-growing wind energy industry. These businesses employ roughly 2,000 Georgia residents and are making everything from safety equipment and ladders for climbing wind turbines, to resins, blade materials, and gears which are essential to producing clean renewable energy from wind resources.

Unfortunately, 37,000 citizens employed making these parts could soon be facing a pink-slip if Congress doesn’t



act to pass the Production Tax Credit (PTC) – a 2.2-cent per kilowatt hour benefit for wind-energy projects created in 2009. Many Georgia jobs, including the 250 jobs recently created near Gainesville by ZF Windpower – a manufacturer of massive gear boxes for turbines – are potentially on the chopping block.

Already, wind energy component manufacturers around the country have laid off thousands of workers because of uncertainty about the future of the PTC. If, on the other hand, Congress does pass an extension of the tax credit then the wind energy industry is set to add 17,000 additional American workers to the payrolls in 2013, and promises to continue bringing unprecedented amounts of clean energy online.

In late September, the Georgia Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign delivered a letter, signed by advocacy organizations, elected officials, and clean energy industry leaders to Georgia’s congressional delegation urging action to extend the PTC and save Georgia jobs!

The facts about Georgia’s wind energy:

- Georgia has the fourth largest accessible offshore wind energy potential,

and second lowest cost of constructing offshore wind amongst all Atlantic-coast states

- Georgia has over 60 gigawatts (GW) of total offshore wind energy potential- that’s enough wind energy to meet over 140% of our state energy needs.

- More than 14.5 GW of offshore wind energy (more than 1/3 of our states total demand) is ready to be developed in the least-intrusive, most accessible areas of our coastal water.

- If Georgia develops just 1/10th of that capacity – just 1,000 MW – the Department of Energy predicts we would create 20,000 Georgia jobs.

In mid-September, Governor Nathan Deal’s office released a statement claiming that offshore wind energy is not viable for Georgia, because the technology does not currently work with the “unique” nature of our wind energy off the coast.” Unfortunately, the only thing “unique” about Georgia’s offshore wind energy is that Georgia’s Governor is the only eligible Governor on the entire Atlantic-coast who is not currently working with federal agencies to develop these ample clean-energy resources.

In 2010, the Department of Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) started the "Smart from the Start" permitting a leasing process with 10 Atlantic Coastal state Governors. South Carolina Governor and others have since joined the program, operated through BOEM's "Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Consortium."

The "Smart from the Start" program's intent is to kick-start wind energy projects by streamlining offshore wind permitting and leasing processes that have traditionally taken an entire decade. As a result of their participation, states like South Carolina are now aggressively recruiting wind energy developers, engineers, port workers, and component manufacturers anticipating a boom in offshore wind projects in that state's coastal waters.

Georgia, as the last remaining hold-out of the "Smart from the Start" process, is doomed to be left a decade in the wind-energy industry's dust if Governor Deal doesn't act fast. Currently, Georgia-based Southern Company is working with the Department of Interior to secure leases for site-specific testing. Southern Company has reportedly been working on the leases since its "Southern Winds" report was first released in 2007. Their lease application, which seeks access to areas off the coast of Tybee Island for additional testing, was first submitted in 2011 and is now being amended, which will add another year for review.

Instead of dragging our heels, Governor Deal should be creating lasting, twenty-first century clean energy jobs for Georgians by joining the "Smart from the Start" program to kick-start offshore wind energy development in our state. Over 300 Savannah area residents, including elected officials like Tybee City Councilman Paul Wolff, Tybee Island Mayor Jason Buelterman, and State Senator Lester Jackson all agree that wind works for jobs and for Georgia. We need leaders who will stand-up for those good jobs. With such a large potential to produce clean wind energy in Georgia waters, and to create tens of thousands of new jobs for Georgians there is no excuse.

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

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

## New Report Highlights Energy Impacts on Water

By *Diane Shearer*

In the Southeast, power plants account for two-thirds of all freshwater withdrawals. Who knew? That even tops agricultural uses. Meeting the US's daily power needs requires more water than 140 New York Cities. While we tend to focus on the problems of nuclear energy or the dirtiness of coal, few of us have stopped to think about all the water needed to provide electricity.

Thanks to the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and a team of independent experts, we now have a wealth of baseline information in a study called "Energy and Water in a Warming World" (EW3). This includes a written report, but perhaps of even greater use, access to a huge database on power plants.

If you are concerned about issues of power generation or the strains on our rivers and aquifers, this is a report you should read. It is available on the UCS website ([www.ucsusa.org/publications](http://www.ucsusa.org/publications)). The entire database is also online at [www.ucsusa.org/ew3database](http://www.ucsusa.org/ew3database). You can look up any power plant in the nation and find details concerning its location, type, capacity, statistics for each generating unit, and much more.



### About Georgia Sierran

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

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

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### New Solar Deal a Step in Right Direction

Georgia Power Company and the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) brokered a deal to increase the amount of solar power the utility generates in the Peach State today when the utility filed a proposal to develop 210 megawatts (MW) of solar power over the next three years as part of its Advanced Solar Initiative program. Sierra Club and GreenLaw applaud today's announcement, but call on Georgia Power and Georgia Public Service Commissioners to further tap Georgia's solar resources, and allow homeowners to pursue solar power generation on their property through a variety of financing mechanisms.

"This is a great first step from Georgia Power to tap our tremendous solar potential and make this clean resource a more significant part of our statewide power generation," said Colleen Kiernan, director of the Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club. "But this is only a step. New Jersey installed 277 MW in the first half of this year alone and Georgia Solar Utility has proposed 2,000 MW by 2016, nearly 10 times the current proposal from Georgia Power and the GPSC. This proposal only scratches the surface - we can't stop here and let our potential go to waste."

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, two-thirds of Georgia has rooftop solar resources equal to Florida, and has greater solar resources than North Carolina and New Jersey. Yet, in 2012, both North Carolina and New Jersey outpaced Georgia in existing and planned solar projects. Today's announcement builds on last year's deal brokered by Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald for Georgia Power to purchase 50 MW of solar power, only a fraction of a percent of the utility's current coal-fired generating capacity.

"Until recently, Georgia Power refused to acknowledge that our solar resources could be tapped in a serious way," said Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, executive director of GreenLaw. "This new solar plan is a step in the right direction, and as Georgia Power plans how it will generate power in the years to come, our Public Service Commissioners should look for further opportunities to power Georgia homes and businesses with clean, locally-generated power."

In 2008 alone, Georgia sent \$2.62 billion out of state and to South America to import coal to be burned for electricity, at a cost of \$270 per person statewide. Further, compared to multi-billion-dollar coal and nuclear plants, solar electricity is stable, and even declining in price, since there are no ongoing fuel costs or expensive facility retrofits. Solar power can serve as a cost-effective alternative to traditional power generation in Georgia. Finally, solar power is a drought-proof energy resource that does not need freshwater resources, unlike coal-fired plants, which use hundreds of millions of gallons of water across Georgia each day.

### Poll: Undecided Voters Prefer Clean Energy Champions

If you watch TV these days, you might think oil, gas, and coal companies are running for elected office. Fossil fuel giants have poured \$153 million into campaign ads as of mid-September, and we still have weeks to go before the election.

Yet even after this ad blitz by deep-pocketed fossil fuel companies intent on preserving their profits and their political influence in Washington, voters still prefer candidates who support clean energy and clean air, according to a new poll conducted for the NRDC Action Fund by Public Policy Polling. It turns out that no matter how much money polluters spend, Americans pay more attention to their health and their children's future than to fossil fuel industry sound bites.

The survey found that 59% of likely voters in key battleground states were more likely to vote for the presidential candidate who supports reducing toxic mercury pollution from power plants, while only 28% would vote for the candidate who opposes mercury standards. Similarly, 57% would vote for the presidential candidate who wants to reduce carbon pollution from power plants, while 32% would choose the candidate who thinks carbon limits would be bad for business.

Highly coveted undecided voters also prefer clean energy champions. On every major energy issue that the two presidential candidates differ on—reducing toxic air pollution, cutting carbon emissions, expanding renewable energy, setting standards for fracking operations—undecided voters clearly prefer the candidate who is moving America into a safer, more sustainable future.

Sixty percent of undecided voters, for instance, favor the presidential candidate who supports fuel efficiency standards that will nearly double the distance the average car can travel on a gallon of gas, while only 31% would vote for the candidate who wants to block these standards.

These survey results are significant, because energy matters more in this election than any I can remember. Energy gets more mentions in campaign ads than any topic other than jobs and the economy, according to analysis done by the New York Times.

Voters want to know where candidates stand on energy. A record of standing up for clean air and promoting renewable power will help candidates with undecided voters – if those candidates make sure those voters know about it. And candidates with records of fighting against public health and environmental safeguards or fighting for oil and gas subsidies may pay a price at the voting booth. But, only if voters know about it.

*PPP interviewed 22,412 likely voters (and an oversample of 2,158 undecided voters) in FL, MI, NV, NM, OH, PA, VA and WI from September 14 – 20; MoE is +/- 0.7% points overall and +/-2.1% points for undecided voters at the 95% CI. Full results and state-specific data can be found at <http://www.nrdcactionfund.org/undecidedvoters/>.*



## Wildlands Committee to Sponsor Annual HemlockFest

By Sue Osier

Once again, the Wildlands Committee of the Georgia Sierra Club, will be a sponsor of HemlockFest, presented by the Lumpkin Coalition, November 2-4, in beautiful Lumpkin County, just outside of Dahlonega.

HemlockFest is an all ages, eco-friendly three-day event featuring music, arts and crafts, food and drink, educational exhibits and primitive camping.

HemlockFest is in its eighth year of raising funds to combat the imported hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) parasite which is devastating the hemlock trees of North Georgia at an alarming rate. Appalachian forests are losing these large, graceful trees which contribute to the health of our ecosystem by providing cover and support to stream banks, and shelter and habitat for many animals and bird species.

HemlockFest has raised more than \$75,000 to support researchers at North Georgia College and State University, the University of Georgia and other institutions in development of a natural predator to the HWA. This year there has been actual progress in the field, halting spread of the HWA!

Join us in Dahlonega the first weekend in November to hear great live music, paddle the pond, learn about efforts to combat the HWA and contribute to the cause. Both day and weekend passes are available, and admission is free for kids age 15 and under (with a supervising adult). More information is available at [www.hemlockfest.org](http://www.hemlockfest.org), or contact [sosier42@att.net](mailto:sosier42@att.net) if you would like to volunteer at the Sierra Club table.



## Georgia's Mountains Lose a Champion

By Larry Winslett



My good friend Joe Gatins recently passed away. Joe had been suffering from cancer and had a sudden heart attack. With his passing, not only have I lost a friend, but we have also lost one of Georgia's great defenders of north Georgia's forests, rivers, and mountains. Joe lived in Rabun County near the Chattooga River and Ellicott Rock Wilderness. Those of us who knew him admired his passion, determination, and tireless efforts to protect the mountains he loved. Whenever the cause was protecting the north Georgia mountains and forests from further degradation, he would be there. Whether it was stopping the horrendous Interstate 3 proposal or the Forest Service's latest bad idea for our National Forests, he could be counted on to be there helping organize and get the word out—and, as a former newspaperman, he was very good at getting the word out. Joe's early groundwork on the I-3 issue was very important in helping stop that proposal. If there was a hearing, meeting, or fundraiser for these causes, Joe would likely be there.

Joe was very active in Georgia Forest Watch, serving both on its board and as a Chattahoochee National Forest district leader. He also wore many other hats for that organization, doing everything from fundraising to leading outings. He was also a long-time Sierra Club member and always worked closely with our Wildlands Committee. He was at the center of our recent efforts to protect the Chattooga River corridor from overexploitation. We will miss him terribly, and the fights for the things we care about will be a little harder now.

The battles we fight are difficult and often depressing, but Joe approached them with a strong spirit, enjoyed a good laugh, and was always ready for a walk in the woods with friends. We had recently talked of getting together to walk in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness and discuss how we could expand it to include the Rock Gorge area and beyond. I plan to still go on that walk. While Joe's passing leaves a void that can't be filled, we will carry on. The best way we can honor him is by getting out and enjoying the places that he loved and carrying on his/our fight to protect them with a renewed sense of joy and possibilities. RIP Joe.

### Great Plans for DeKalb Parks

By D. Gordon Draves

Dave Butler is Greenspace Environment Manager for DeKalb County working with land acquisition for parks. He spoke to our group September 11 about many of the county parks, green-spaces, and trails and what is coming in the future. Here are a few:

He spoke of how the Hairston Park expansion would eliminate car trips for residents of the area. Other groups such as Healthy Places Research Group and Live Healthy DeKalb have pointed out that many developments are like grape clusters—one way in and one way out. While at the same time, some of the grapes (cul-de-sacs—literally “butt of the sack” in French) are only a hundred yards from the park’s facilities, but a person might drive 2 miles to get to them. With the expansion, some cutoffs will facilitate access between park and homes.

Constitution Lakes Park is relatively new. It has a lake where clay for bricks was harvested. It is part of the complex of parks and green-spaces near the South River, which the county plans to link to several of them with a trail along the river to go all the way to the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers and to Atlanta.

Besides recreational opportunities, the South River is a resource. The county scoops sand from sandbars to deposit on landfills. A week later, the sand has been replenished to the original size.

One property just acquired is the Lyons Farm that has the same potential as the McDaniel Farm Park in Gwinnett, which has been restored and is part of the festivals held there. So history could meet art shows, outdoor concerts, or other festival uses.

Medlock Park is where our Adopt-A-Stream team tests for water quality. In addition to the PATH to Mason Mill Park, it is planned to go from Medlock to Sheperd Nature Preserve and cross Lawrenceville Highway.

### “Industrial Scars” Photo Show Visits Atlanta

By D. Gordon Draves

Sierra Club and Greenlaw hosted a free viewing of J. Henry Fair’s environmental photograph collection on September 6. For more details about seeing the exhibit, go to: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>. Here are some impressions.

Intricate designs, intriguing patterns, beautiful colors and deadly poisons. Destroyed landscapes—forests gone, polluted for decades, if not a thousand years. Coal ash laden with mercury and dozens more of toxins, carcinogens, and birth defects producing teratogens.

Shot from an airplane so the shapes are muffled—sharp edges blurred. Pretty pictures of dead zones. Lifeless and life-extinguishing barren desolation. Natural places with beauty out of erosion come to mind—Grand Canyon, Bryce and Province Canyon. Beautiful attractions because colors are revealed when layers above are torn away. In most cases here, it is by deposit from the earth gougers transporting ore and coal to leave leftover waste as heaps, or slurry stored in poorly protected basins.

Oil from BP’s well glows on the water, different weights of petroleum have different sheens—blue, red, brown—even aquamarine similar to the gulf’s own hue despoiled now by the intruding waves of gunk.

While most of the aerial shots in the gallery had a beauty of their own, the photos during the lecture got down to the business of just plain ugly. No distance muted the destructive power that brutalized mountains.

Fair in his introduction to *The Day After Tomorrow: Images of Our Earth in Crisis* (2011), states, “This is a book of photographs of environmental disasters occurring at different points in the consumer/industrial cycle, which illustrates the negative impact our contemporary consumer society has on the planetary systems that sustain our existence. Because of the subject the pictures are inherently political, but my first goal was to create compelling images.

“Our society’s structure has evolved to the point where government responds not to the citizenry, but to the corporations that finance it.”

Our land has been abused with manufacturing’s waste-products. We have often heard that fracking can pollute ground water, but hadn’t heard they pump some of the fracking liquid out of the well and pour it into huge plastic-lined ponds. While underground those fluids pick up some buddies besides the natural gas—such as uranium thus the pools are radioactive.

Many of the wet wastes don’t stay wet forever. They dry and the winds blow the



Participants at the June 16 Metro Atlanta Group Adopt-A-Stream biological monitoring, (back row, left to right) included Gordon Draves, Charles Cook, Nancy Wylie, Larry Kloet, (front row, left to right), Mary Andrus-Overley, Alan Wilcox, Myles and Neil Shulman (Photo by Zoe Haugo).

# Metro Atlanta Group

powder all around—areas many miles away get a dose of hazardous chemicals. The wet is stored in lagoons or plastic-lined craters or behind earthen dams. In time many leak or a dam bursts or floodwaters pour in and much of the foul water goes downstream. As they sit they peacefully fill the air with stench.

So no matter how appealing the hues and tones of color, they forebode poorly for the areas around them for long into the future. Some warn that our grandchildren will be left with our huge monetary deficit; however we are leaving them with poisons on the land that pollutes the waters and the air.

One of the essayists in the book says: “Two days later, black oil is roiling into the heaven-given aquamarine clarity of the Gulf of Mexico. There’s a scheme to put a box over the leak. My eight-year-old grandson said, ‘If it even works, what’s that going to do to the ocean floor?’ What, indeed, mouth of babe? The greed to drill outpaced technology to contain in case thing went wrong, terribly and tragically wrong.”—Frances Mayes

Our legacy will be diseases such as cancer, birth defects or problems conceiving. Is that what we want to leave our next generations?

## Upcoming Meetings & Programs

*We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., program begins at 7:30. Please note times for December potluck.*

### **October 9: Regular Meeting**

Speaker Chris Philpott from England is touring America to discuss his new book and the environmental crisis that inspired him.

“Green Spirituality is a book with a purpose; to alert the people of this planet to the perils that face us all, and to show that, if we are prepared to heed the teachings of ancient and modern spiritual wisdom, we can still face the future positively.

“The main themes of the book are a combination of detailed information about global environmental problems and world poverty, along with solutions to those problems rooted in the spiritual teachings of different traditions. The book includes extracts from over one hundred interviews, with spiritual leaders throughout India, undertaken by Chris Philpott in 2002.” – from his website: <http://greenspirituality.org/>

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 with East Lake Drive; the entrance to the church is on East Lake Dr. MARTA Bus 2 runs on Ponce de Leon between North Avenue Station and Decatur Station. between North Avenue and Decatur stations on Ponce de Leon.

### **October: Musical Sundays at Woodland Park, Decatur**

This 7-acre garden was a surprise. It is located at 932 Scott Boulevard just east of Clairmont Road. It has a variety of domestic and wild plants with a pavilion for music, which is featured usually the 4th Sunday of each month, but in October music is every Sunday, 2-4 PM, on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

### **November 13: Regular Meeting**

Speaker Brian Carr is The Clean Air Campaign’s communications director. He will be discussing air pollution issues.

### **December 11: Holiday Party**

Larry Kloet will present a program on his August trip to Kenai Fjords National Park and Wildlife Refuge in the Kenai Peninsula south of Anchorage, Alaska and Denali National Park in the interior of Alaska.

Annual Holiday Party begins at 6:30 PM, dinner at 7, program 7:30. Please bring a dish to share. Atlanta Group will provide drinks, a meat dish (turkey or ham), plus plates and utensils if you forget yours.

### **Adopt-A-Stream Program**

Upcoming Adopt-A-Stream activities are held Saturdays at 10 AM at Medlock Park, Decatur:

- October 6, (Chemical)
- November 17, (Chemical)
- Dec. 8, (Biological & Chemical)

Our activities involve Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park, 10 AM - noon. For biologic monitoring, we need many eyes to find the macroinvertebrate critters found in the creek. During June’s monitoring, participants found clams, red worm, and dragonfly larvae. The 3 salamanders or newts didn’t count, for they have backbones.

Directions to Medlock Park: Driving south on Scott Blvd. from I-285 and the Stone Mountain Expressway, turn right onto Medlock and take it down to Lancelot, where you turn left again. You dead end at Scott Circle. Turn right and follow it downhill, crossing Desmond, until you see Medlock park on the right. Park as close to the middle as you can, and walk into the park along a dirt road with the 2-story building on your left and ball fields on either side, back into the woods behind ball park #5. Bear left, and you will see us at a picnic table by the stream.

For information about chemical monitoring and dates, call Larry Kloet at 404 636-7226. For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172.

# Annual Centennial Group Photo Contest a Success

Our annual photo contest was held August 2. Our judges were Margery Diamond and Nicholas Cole.

Margery Diamond, a photographer and retired school teacher, served as one of the judges at the August Centennial Sierra Club meeting. She also presented an impressive show of her photography at the meeting, with selections from her collection, *Inside Yosemite*, from her trip to Yosemite in June 2011. A complete collection of all her work includes images from Vietnam, Switzerland, Italy, England, Canada, and many other countries, as well as a number of states across the US.

She is the author a series of photo books and is published in the magazines *Blue Ridge* and *Hobby Home Farm*. She has received numerous awards for her images at Roswell Photographic Society reviews. She is a member of the Georgia Nature Photographers Assoc., Roswell Photographic Society, MOSAIC Outdoor Clubs of America, and Georgia Sea Kayakers. "I believe that everything that is important can be learned through the experience of nature," says Diamond.

Nicholas Cole, another judge at the August meeting, is a professional photographer who works with photographic restoration and with photographing people with special needs, including children and seniors. A Marietta native, he began capturing photographs of elementary school classmates and other friends and family in the 1950's. During the last 40 years he has started several portrait studios and photo labs in the North Atlanta area. He studied commercial and industrial photography but was always drawn to the people side of the profession.

"The trust people give me to capture their most loved family members in a way on one else could is a very special feeling," says Cole.

Mr. Cole now works at the Avery Gallery in Marietta, still restoring old photographs and learning the restoration of fine arts.



*The winners in the landscape category were:*

*1st place: Jorg Voss  
2nd place: Wolfgang Tiedtke  
3rd place: Ina Allison  
(Carina O'Bara standing in for her)*

*The winners in the animals and plants category were:*

*1st place: Jane Springfield  
2nd place: Wolfgang Tiedtke  
3rd place: Bob Springfield*



*First and 2nd places won an REI gift card; 3rd place won a Sierra Club t-shirt.*

## Upcoming Meetings & Programs

**October 11: Patrick Thompson on Sustainable Energy**

Patrick is applying IT lessons to Environmental Technology, which should be the next great American industry - helping customers save money, gain economic freedom, improve supply chain, predict and control energy costs with the use of renewable energies. He's a LEED AP certified in Solar PV and Thermal. He's involved in several ventures aimed at growing careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy. He has also worked on establishing a renewable energy curriculum and certification program for our area tech schools. He earned his company's Environmental Leadership Award last year for his work in obtaining solar grants for non-profit organizations.

**November 1: Medshare**

MedShare is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the environment and healthcare through the efficient recovery and redistribution of surplus medical supplies and equipment to underserved healthcare facilities in developing countries. They will be coming to talk with us about the work they do and then on January 19, we will be joining them at their facility in south DeKalb to sort and 'recycle' medical supplies. Please join us in giving medical supplies a second life that saves lives!

**December 6: Holiday Party at Avery Gallery on Roswell Road near Marietta Square**

# New Adopt-A-Stream Partnership in LaGrange

By Laura Breyfogle

The LaGrange Group is excited about partnering with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in efforts to monitor local water quality in Long Cane Creek. Long Cane Creek is on the 303d list, which means it does not meet Clean Water Act standards. It is not rendered fishable, swimmable and drinkable.

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper recently opened an office in LaGrange, which is coordinated by regional outreach manager Jill Sistino. Our partnership began soon after a program Jill presented at one of our monthly Sierra Club meetings. Jill coordinated an Adopt a Stream training in June in LaGrange for Sierra Club members as well as other interested groups. Seven Sierra Club members were trained: Joanna Baxter, Sam and Laura Breyfogle, Mary Drake, Judy Lawrence, Melina Moyer, and Eric Simpson. Our first monitoring session was in August.

Long Cane Creek was identified by Chattahoochee Riverkeeper as a key stream to be monitored. Three sampling sites were identified with a separate team to monitor each site. As advised by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources,



monitoring will be done monthly and results entered into the Adopt a Stream Website. If *E. coli* levels are above a specified level for a prolonged period of time, we have been instructed on which officials to notify.

We are thankful to the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper for providing us an opportunity to help protect the planet!

## Greater Gwinnett Group

### Gwinnett Group Report

I left my home this morning, a not uncommon event, and found the most welcome of sights – two yellow leaves on my car's hood. This first sign of Fall ushers marks the return of most needed cooler weather. Coincidentally, the return of cooler weather comes with the heat, some may say hot air, of electoral rhetoric.

While the presidential election receives the most publicity and indeed will set the tone for the next four years, there are other elections that will have a substantial impact on our daily lives. One example is the PSC race. The Public Service Commission decides important issues such as how much Georgia Power can charge Georgia citizens for the two proposed nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle.

In Gwinnett, we will be making these same decisions and voting our conscience. As important as these local and national issues are, the routine of Sierra Club activities and meetings continue. In September we had Mike Murdock discussed wild lands and wildlife in Georgia. In October, Trey Gibbs will talk about alternative energy and the prospects for wind, solar and tidal energy. There is much happening in the Gwinnett burbs. Come see what the excitement is about.

- Dan Friedman

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## Savannah River Group

After a summer break, the Savannah River Group is back in action. Our annual September Ice Cream Social attracted not only ice cream lovers but many folks interested in buying local foods and eating organically while supporting a sustainably healthy environment. Kim Hines, the market manager, presented a program on the operation of Augusta Locally Grown, whose membership is now over a thousand, including many local Sierrans.

This particular program was a fortuitous event in view of the recent Stanford University report which stated that the nutritive value of organic foods was not much more than non-organic foods. The scientists acknowledged that organic foods did have fewer pesticides. However, their publication did not address the positive environmental aspects of eating organic foods grown locally, such as: less transport costs that result in reduced releases of greenhouse gases; better farming practices that protect soil health and result in less environmental pollution; far fewer exposures to antibiotics in meat and eggs; and support of local agricultural jobs and families just to list some of the advantages of locally grown organic foods. It was never more true: YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!

October found us thinking about the up-coming election. The Georgia Chapter's political chair, Eddie Ehlert, graciously agreed to visit with us and discuss Sierra policies and the processes for how Sierra support of candidates is determined, conforming to Sierra guidelines. In November Judy Gordon presented a PowerPoint on her train travels, featuring what adventures await those "riding the rails." Joshua Tree National Park was a highlight of one of those trips so a brief look at the park features was included (see pictures below).

Our outings program is alive and well, thanks to Cathy Black and April Wilson. We enjoyed boating on the Augusta Canal in Petersburg Boat replicas, day hikes to Heggie's Rock and Congaree Swamp, weekend camping at Elisha Clark State Park, and finally, we helped with Rivers Alive cleanups in October as well as an Adopt-A-Highway cleanup organized by Richard McCrary and Sam Booher.

In December Laurie and Sam Booher will host our annual drop-in Christmas Party at their home on Saturday the 15th. Please come visit with us anytime and visit our web site for additional news and events: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/srg>.

- **Judy Gordon, Co-Chair**



## Inner City Outings

### **Volunteers Needed!**

**Inner City Outings Holiday Gift Wrap  
REI Atlanta and Perimeter stores  
December 15-24, 2012**

*ICO seeks volunteers who are able to fill a 3-hour shift wrapping gifts at REI. We also seek one special volunteer to act as a co-coordinator and lead for the Perimeter Store.*

*Gift wrapping provides ICO with over 50% of our operating budget for the year. ICO expects to run approximately 30 trips over the next 12 months and get 300+ inner city youth into the outdoors hiking, camping, kayaking, caving, on service projects and more*

**Please contact Dolly Katz:  
ddk4@cdc.gov or 404-639-6062**

### **ICO Trip Report: Hard Labor Creek State Park**

Students from the Joseph B. Whitehead Boys & Girls Club were given a warm welcome at Hard Labor Creek State Park where they volunteered alongside Friends of Georgia State Parks members. The service project was focused on restoring an old Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) residential hall which has for many years been neglected. Hard Labor Creek State Park and Friends of Georgia State Parks want to eventually make these historical residential halls into museums about the history of the land of Hard Labor Creek State Park and the CCC's involvement in creating the park. Students learned how to clear brush and cut down young Sweetgum trees which are growing too close to the building. We all helped pick up various piles of cut brush and trees and throw them into a huge dump truck. Many of the kids found some really cool critters, including a beautiful praying mantis and daddy long leg spiders! All this hard work was done with a beautiful lake and a thick Georgia forest surrounding us on all sides. After we finished, Friends of Georgia State Parks provided a delicious meal and raffle prizes! All in all, it was another fantastic outing where students got to experience many things for the first time!

### **Our Mission**

*Sierra Club Inner City Outings is a community outreach program that provides opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy, and protect the natural world. More information is available on our website at <http://www.atlantaico.org>*

# Local Group Directory

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](mailto: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](mailto:carina_do@yahoo.com).

## Coastal Group

*Serving Savannah & surrounding counties*

**Chair:** Steve Willis, [snwillis@yahoo.com](mailto:snwillis@yahoo.com)

**Outings Chair:** Steve Wagner,  
[sjwgnr@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dan3688@aol.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Beth Remmes,  
[bremmes@hotmail.com](mailto:bremmes@hotmail.com)

**Outings Chair:** Jake Hardison,  
[jake.hardison@ssa.gov](mailto: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](mailto:breyfogle@charter.net)

**Conservation Chair:** Nancy Green,  
[mngreen@wirelesshometown.com](mailto:mngreen@wirelesshometown.com)

**Outings Chair:** Elizabeth Appleby,  
[ecappleby@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:nonsmoke4ga@hotmail.com)

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

**Co-Chair:** Sam Booher, [sbooher@aol.com](mailto:sbooher@aol.com)

**Conservation Chair:** Frank Carl, [frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net)

**Outings Chair:** Cathy Black,  
[sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wolpers4@aol.com)

### Forsyth County

Jim Callison, [jimcallison@juno.com](mailto:jimcallison@juno.com)

### Macon

Fletcher Winston, [winston\\_f@mercer.edu](mailto:winston_f@mercer.edu)

### North Georgia

Larry Winslett, [winfog@windstream.net](mailto:winfog@windstream.net)

### Valdosta

Brian Day, [bjday@valdosta.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG)

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

### LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

GA-ENERGY-FORUM (Smart Energy Solutions Committee)

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

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at:

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

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

## Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next meeting will be Sat., November 17th 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.

# Chapter Contacts

## Executive Committee

**Chair:** Mark Woodall, 706-674-2242,  
woodallmark8@gmail.com  
*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 Ehler, 770-402-0087,  
edeherl@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,  
woodallmark8@gmail.com

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

**Newsletter Editor:** David Emory,  
gasierran@gmail.com

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

**Outreach:** vacant

**Political Chair:** Eddie Ehler,  
edeherl@bellsouth.net

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

**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.*

## 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 Graine,  
karengraine@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

### Sr. Campaign Representative:

Odie Donald, 404-607-1262 x.232  
odie.donald@sierraclub.org

### 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

## Chapter & Group Elections

### Georgia Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

#### **Todd Daniel**

*Location: Powder Springs  
Sierra Club Member Since: 1997*

I am a passionate environmentalist and have been a Sierra Club volunteer and activist for 15 years. I am currently chapter secretary and have held numerous posts on the local, state, and national levels. On the local level I am former chair of the Centennial Group. At the state level, I am a former vice chair and chapter newsletter editor. On the national level, I served on the Club's Population & Environment Committee. I enjoy my role as secretary because I get to learn first-hand about all the wonderful work that is taking place around the state -- this positive energy feeds my soul. It is also a great inspiration to serve with an outstanding staff and a dedicated and visionary group of volunteer leaders. It is my hope that you will re-elect me to a second term. We have enjoyed great victories this past year and it's great to be on the winning team, and on the right side of justice and fairness.

#### **Bettye Harris**

*Location: Marietta  
Sierra Club Member Since: 1991*

I have been a Sierra Club member in the Georgia Chapter since 1991. My club experience includes many years as a leader in my local Centennial Group (membership, political, conservation, group chair and excom member); many years as a chapter leader (membership, personnel, political, chapter co-chair and excom member); and service on several national committees. My professional experience includes technical writing, volunteer and project management, radio broadcasting, and mediation.

For the past few years, I have been relatively inactive as a club leader due to personal and work constraints. I decided to run again in this election because candidates (and leaders) are needed, because I have some time to contribute, and because I have passion and experience to help the Chapter consider and make decisions about our environmental goals. I also look forward to working with others to engage, support, and cultivate new leaders needed for the future. May I have your support and your vote? Thank you.

#### **Thomas Jackson**

*Location: Decatur  
Sierra Club Member Since: 2012*

In the last year, I have devoted many hours getting to know our chapter. I watched volunteers deliberate a position on the transportation sales tax referendum and advance a successful effort to expand that debate. Passionate members banded together, bringing different skills and opinions. Unanimity was rare, but people remained engaged and constructive.

What I've seen tells me that volunteer participation will define our impact, and there's plenty to do here in Georgia. Our electric utilities are reluctant to adopt wind and solar. Choices remain in addressing water concerns. Commutes are long; walkable places are few.

I hope you can put the best of yourself into this organization and come away feeling the better for the effort. I intend to focus on increasing opportunities for you to do so. I welcome your ideas; you can reach me at [tj31975@gmail.com](mailto:tj31975@gmail.com).

#### **Midge Sweet**

*Location: Atlanta  
Sierra Club Member Since: 1999*

I am offering myself as a candidate for the Executive Committee of the Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club, our state's flagship environmental advocacy organization. More than ever Georgians, wherever they live in this state, experience the extraordinary beauty of our coasts, plains and the rising Appalachian mountains. I will work hard to protect these resources and lead the charge to preserve additional waterways, forests and airsheds.

Over the last ten years my passion has been stopping coal fired coal plants from coming to Georgia. As a volunteer with GreenLaw and then as coordinator of Georgians for Smart Energy, I worked with incredible people throughout the state to strategically align our human resources and craft effective messages as part of a campaign that highlights the financial shortcomings and environmental deficits of dirty coal energy generation. I have been a part of efforts to support and expand urban greenspaces and streams in my neighborhood and throughout Atlanta, and as a volunteer with Georgia WAND I have expressed my firm opposition to nuclear power and the dire consequences its waste engenders. My first full-time job, at 19 working for the Environmental Law Institute, was as copy editor for the first scholarly book assessing the impact of the National Environmental Policy Act. Shortly after college I moved to Atlanta where I served as the first executive director of the Atlanta Clean City Commission, working to explain to folks the benefits of recycling and personal responsibility for not spoiling our environment with their trash. (I even met my husband at a recycling meeting!) From the lofty perspective of policy to the grassroots action of advocates, I have



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

For confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club**

**Gift Planning Program**

85 Second Street, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

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

## Chapter & Group Elections

learned about, participated in and believe in the need for continuous, vigilant engagement to protect our environmental.

We have a right to clean air, clean water and clean air. In the years ahead I want to be able to paddle the Flint River with my granddaughter Dalia, as my husband and children and neighbors and I did for the first time 28 years ago when we splashed in shoals, collected hellgrammites and screeched with trepidation and delight as a water moccasin slithered across to the far bank, likely anxious to be out of the way of our effervescent crew.

Our commitment and stewardship today will protect our air, water and land for tomorrow. I offer my commitment and elbow grease to this task.

### Greater Gwinnett Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### David Hawkins

---

Hello, my name is David Hawkins. I would like to be on the ExCom committee. I would like to be active in the community through the Sierra Club to inspire and be inspired by others. Your support would be appreciated. Thank you.

#### Art Sheldon

---

I have enjoyed serving on the Greater Gwinnett Group ExCom for these last few years and look forward to continuing to serve another term to continue our work in the growing of environmental awareness here in Gwinnett. As a Sierra Club member since 1992 and active at the state level here in Georgia since 2004 I bring a strong interest in environmental issues that started with my work towards and receiving a degree in Environmental Studies many years ago. I furthered that with a Masters Degree in City Planning from Georgia Tech where I did a thesis on revitalization of historic buildings and districts in Savannah before sustainability was a commonly used expression. Since then I have served on boards of various groups seeking to protect us from over building without a plan. This resulted in appointments to the 1997 Gwinnett SPLOST Citizens Project Selection Committee and the inaugural Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board where I served two 4 year terms and was elected Vice-Chairman and Chairman for two year terms. My key issues now are to push alternative forms of transportation to automobile projects such as Bus Rapid Transit and light rail here in Gwinnett as well as continuing to work at the state level on the R.A.I.L. committee supporting MARTA and light rail in the belt line.

## Chapter & Group Elections

### Metro Atlanta Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### **Konrad Hayashi**

---

While relatively new to the Sierra Club (4 yrs), we have become regulars at Metro Atlanta meetings. I've long appreciated hiking and the scenic outdoors, and we especially enjoyed hiking and the ocean when we lived in Hawaii, before coming to Georgia. I first really learned to enjoy the outdoors through Boy Scouts, later becoming an Assistant Scout Master in San Diego, and enjoyed helping the troops with everything from medical exams to setting up camp. Later, while a Navy tropical medicine physician in Peru, I was fortunate enough to hike part of the Inca Trail. A friend and I started a cycling club for our college, and I commuted by bike throughout college. Since coming to Georgia, Jannah and I have been members of WAND, which also has a strong environmental protection component. I support requiring industry to pay their full share of production costs, to include impacts on public health and the environment (e.g. mining, particulates, tailings, etc.) and oppose legislators forcing us to provide huge welfare payments each month to a power company for nuclear reactor construction without taxpayer approval. We enjoy growing some of our own vegetables, and I'm interested in starting a backyard hive.

#### **Martin McConaughy**

---

For most of my 42 years living in DeKalb County I taught math in the public high schools. Since retiring from teaching I tutor at the International Community School, have run for public office and been a member of Sierra Club for 8 years.

My motivation to do more comes from my enjoyment of our parks and my dismay and dislike of our general environmental policies. I feel a need to do more to help enhance a cleaner and fresher future for my grandchildren and their peers.

#### **D. Gordon Draves**

---

I've been a member most years since Frank & Frances Eliggi in the Redwood Chapter gave me a membership as a college graduation present in 1970. As a Geography major, I have been concerned about the environment for a long time. While a park aide in two California State Parks, and four summers as a ranger-naturalist at Ft. Union Trading Post NHS (ND/MT), Yellowstone (2), and Mammoth

Cave NP, my appreciation for the natural wonders grew.

While a member of San Gorgonio Chapter (CA), I led my first outing—bike tour of San Jacinto Valley. My second outing was August 2010 in Connally Nature Park in East Point—Sierra Club played a good part in saving it from becoming a school at the expense of 150-250 year old trees including a state champion white oak. I also contribute photos and articles to GEORGIA SIERRAN plus I've been on Atlanta Group Ex-Com for 5 years.

My issues are transportation, water, and others while GA General Assembly is in session. As president of GASP—Georgians Against Smoking Pollution, I am concerned about indoor air quality as well as outdoor air. Plus the fire-safer cigarette bill went into effect in 2010, so there will be fewer forest fires from that cause.

I am also a member of East Point Historical Society, Semmes Park Community Organization, Hillcrest Cemetery Memorial Association, SALT—Seniors & Law Enforcement Together, and AARP.

### Centennial Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### **Rush Netterville**

---

Rush is a Chartered Retirement Plans Specialist working with companies regarding their retirement plans. I am very concerned about how a population of more than 7 billion human beings is having a negative impact on our planet. Like many people, my wife and I recycle constantly, take our own bags when grocery shopping, and I turn off my car engine at stop lights to save gasoline. We are both long-time members of Sierra Club and are committed to its causes. I am very much looking forward to serving on the Centennial Sierra Club Executive Committee.

#### **Angie Netterville**

---

Angie is a Spanish teacher at Inman Public School in the Atlanta Public School System. I am also very concerned about how a population of more than 7 billion human beings is having a negative impact on our planet. Like many people, my husband and I recycle constantly, take our own bags when grocery shopping, and I turn off my car engine at stop lights to save gasoline. We are both long-time members of Sierra Club and are committed to its causes. I am very much looking forward to serving on the Centennial Sierra Club Executive Committee.

## Chapter & Group Elections

### LaGrange Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Laura Breyfogle

I have served on the Excom of the Sierra Club group of LaGrange for 4 years with the following responsibilities: recycling committee chair, treasurer and chair. I have almost completed training as an outings leader and would be interested in serving as the outings chair. I have a passion for both exploring and protecting the planet!

#### Clare Zens

I have been an Excom member for four years, serving as secretary. I took the Adopt-a-Stream training and participated in water sampling in local creeks. I've taken part in our group's activities for Earth Day and the Great American Cleanup, and have enjoyed outings that gave me a chance for birding with an expert leader. As well as watching birds, I enjoy photography, reading, and painting.

#### Sim Blitch

As a retiree, I take ever more seriously the charge my Dad gave me 58 years ago when he said "Strive daily to leave the Earth a better place than you found it." The soil, bees and earthworms and I produce organically grown blueberries, strawberries and a variety of vegetables. Nature and Caroline are my partners.

#### Edna Foster

I am currently serving on the LaGrange Ex-Com and have been an active member of the LaGrange local group for several years.

## Voting Instructions

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

#### Chapter Voting

All members of the Georgia Chapter may vote for up to three (3) candidates and complete the ballot on page 23. You will find the chapter candidate statements on pages 19-20.

#### Group Voting

You may also vote in one of the Group elections for the Metro Atlanta, Centennial, Greater Gwinnett or LaGrange groups. You may only vote in one group election. You will find the group candidate statements on pages 20-22.

Not all groups are using the Georgia Sierran for their election ballots. If your group is not listed, please contact your

group leadership (see contacts on page 17) to inquire about your group Executive Committee election.

#### Joint Membership Voting

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

#### Complete Your Ballot

After voting, place the entire page into an envelope. **The page must contain your mailing label, which we need to verify your membership.**

After your ballot is verified, your label will be removed to ensure anonymity during counting.

#### Mail or Deliver Your Ballot

Your ballot must be received by 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2012. Mail

to: Georgia Sierra Club Elections, 743-B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

#### Questions?

For questions regarding the Executive Committee elections, please call the Georgia Chapter office at 404-607-1262, or email [georgia.chapter@sierra-club.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierra-club.org).

#### Ballot Verification and Counting

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee, on Thursday, November 15, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-B East College Ave, Decatur, GA 30030 (at the corner of Sams Street and East College Ave, across from the Avondale MARTA station). Ballot verification will begin at 6:30 p.m. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or send a representative to do so.

# Chapter & Group Elections

## Remember:

- Please read the voting instructions on the opposite page before completing your ballot.
- If there is one name on your mailing label, please vote in column "A" only.
- If there are two names on your mailing label, one should vote in column "A" and the other should vote in column "B."
- Everyone may vote for Georgia Chapter candidates.

- You may vote for Group candidates for your Group, but **only your** Group.
- Vote for up to the number of candidates indicated below. If too many boxes are checked in either column, the ballot will be declared invalid.
- Detach and fold this **entire ballot page**. Make sure your mailing label is still attached to the back.
- Place ballot in an envelope and mail to the Georgia Chapter office at the address below to be received by no later than 5 p.m. Thursday, November 15, 2012.

Georgia Chapter			
Executive Committee Candidates See candidate statements on pages 19-20			
<b>How many?</b> Vote for up to THREE candidates		A	B
<b>3</b>	Todd Daniel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bettye Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Thomas Jackson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Midge Sweet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Centennial Group			
Executive Committee Candidates See candidate statements on pages 21			
<b>How many?</b> Vote for up to TWO candidates		A	B
<b>2</b>	Rush Netterville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Angela Netterville	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Greater Gwinnett Group			
Executive Committee Candidates See candidate statements on page 20			
<b>How many?</b> Vote for up to TWO candidates		A	B
<b>2</b>	David Hawkins	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Art Sheldon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LaGrange Group			
Executive Committee Candidates See candidate statements on page 22			
<b>How many?</b> Vote for up to TWO candidates		A	B
<b>2</b>	Laura Breyfogle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Clare Zens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sim Blich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Edna Foster	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Metro Atlanta Group			
Executive Committee Candidates See candidate statements on page 21			
<b>How many?</b> Vote for up to TWO candidates		A	B
<b>2</b>	Konrad Hayashi	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Martin McConaughy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	D. Gordon Draves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Mail ballots to:** Georgia Sierra Club Elections  
743 East College Ave., Ste. B  
Decatur, GA 30030

**Questions?** Call the Georgia Chapter office at 404-607-1262 or email [georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org)

**Deadline:** Ballot must be received no later than 5 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2012.

**Notice:** Ballots will be verified and counted on Thursday, November 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chapter office.



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## Outings & Events

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

**Sunday, October 21**

### **Mission Outdoors: Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve Hike**

**Location:** Davidson-Arabia Mtn. Nature Preserve, Lithonia

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Registration:** Required before Oct. 21, 12:00 AM

**Description:** Join us at the Davidson-Arabia Nature Preserve for an interpretive and educational hike up Arabia Mountain and the surrounding protected areas. We will explore the cultural and natural history of the preserve as we hike through forests, open fields, wetlands, and more. This will be a moderate hike and will take roughly 2 hours. Please contact Jackie Pilcowitz if interested. Phone: 248-320-4903 or E-mail: [jpilcow@emory.edu](mailto:jpilcow@emory.edu).

**Saturday, October 27**

### **Blood Mountain from Lake Winfield Scott**

**Location:** Lake Winfield Scott, Chattahoochee Nat'l Forest

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (tentative)

**Registration:** Required before Oct. 25, 9:00 AM

**Rating:** Moderate

**Description:** Rated: 8 miles / 2 to 3 mph / 1568 ft elevation gain. Blood Mountain is the most scenic part of the Appalachian Trail in Georgia. This is an excellent introduc-

tion to the A.T. From Lake Winfield Scott, we'll hike to Jarard Gap and intersect with the Appalachian Trail, then take the A.T. up to Blood Mountain to the historic CCC shelter where we'll have lunch and enjoy the views, then return via the Slaughter Creek Trail. This Blood Mountain Wilderness hike is a moderate loop plus a steep 0.7 mile climb up Blood Mountain. At 4458 feet, Blood Mountain is the highest peak on the A.T. in Georgia and has excellent views in several directions. Please register directly with Lee Graham via phone (678-384-0171) or e-mail ([leeerah3@gmail.com](mailto:leeerah3@gmail.com)). Limit 12.

**Saturday, November 10**

### **Arkaquah Trail round trip from Track Rock Gap to Brasstown Bald**

**Location:** 932 Trackrock Gap Rd, Chattahoochee National Forest, Young Harris, GA

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. (tentative)

**Rating:** Strenuous

**Registration:** Required before Nov. 8, 12:00 AM

**Description:** Arkaquah Trail – round-trip from Track Rock Gap to Brasstown Bald, 12.2 miles. We'll take a moderate pace up the long climb from Track Rock to Buzard's Roost ridge then follow one of the highest ridges in Georgia, with views in both directions, to the top of Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. We'll eat lunch with 360 degree views from the top of Brasstown Bald. Then hike back to Track Rock Gap. Total altitude gain: 3991 feet. Estimated hiking time: 6.5 hrs + .5 hr lunch. Limit 7. Great news !! The rocky-scramble section in the middle of this trail was improved in 2012 so footing is more stable. Please register with Lee Graham via phone (678-384-0171) or e-mail ([leeerah3@gmail.com](mailto:leeerah3@gmail.com)).