



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet



Make Your Voice Heard on Climate Change

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Confronting Our Greatest Challenge

By Colleen Kiernan

I believe climate change is the most important issue humanity faces. I accepted the challenge and the opportunity to serve as your Georgia Chapter Director because it gives me the best opportunity to have the biggest impact on the issue I care most deeply about.

When I started working for Sierra Club in 2001, I never uttered the words “global warming” or “climate change” because we live in Georgia, and it wasn’t worth it. I talked about soot, smog and other air pollution that has immediate, quantifiable health consequences. Then in 2006 Al Gore’s documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” changed the playing field a lot, and gave credibility to the impacts of climate change so it was harder to dismiss them as a bunch of eco-doomsayers just trying to stop growth and progress.

In 2010 when I came back to the Club after getting my Masters in City Planning and working in architecture and planning for a few years, I still didn’t think we needed to talk about climate



Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

change because it was easier to just talk about the clean energy solutions, which were rapidly becoming cost competitive

with fossil fuels and were beginning to create jobs and new industries in Georgia.

Last month when EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the new proposed limits for carbon for existing power plants, she changed the playing field once again. It was a great speech, and if you didn’t listen to it, I encourage you to. My favorite line is “We can turn climate risk into business opportunity.” In Georgia, we already are, it’s just a matter of reminding our leaders to lead and not get dragged along kicking and screaming.

About Georgia Sierran

Articles: Send materials to: gasierran@gmail.com. Maximum word length: 750 words with one photo. Please include high-resolution digital photos (200 dpi) with your story.

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

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

EPA Unveils Landmark “Clean Power Plan”

Georgians Have Critical Opportunity for Input at July 29-30 Hearing

By Seth Gunning and Colleen Kiernan

Climate disruption is our generation's greatest challenge.

In recent years, Georgians have started becoming accustomed to the “new normal” – the harsh effects climate disruption: historic droughts, devastating heat waves, wildfires, and hurricanes. Record-setting drought conditions cost Georgia farmers \$340 million dollars in lost crops in 2007. From 2011-2012, to mitigate the damage caused by extreme weather events Georgia communities needed \$480 million in federal disaster relief funds.

The biggest single driver of climate disruption is carbon pollution pumped into the public's air, free-of-charge, from existing power plants. In fact, power plants are responsible for 40% of all carbon pollution.

In 2013, while sweating in the hot June sun on the campus of Georgetown University, President Obama laid out for the nation his Climate Action Plan. In that speech he directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to draft new standards that would protect Americans from carbon pollution from power plants and the resulting climate disruption. In June of 2014, EPA finally proposed the ‘Clean Power Plan’ to reduce carbon pollution from existing power plants 30% by 2030.

The proposal is a substantive step forward in reducing carbon pollution and toward a stable climate for future generations. And while it won't solve the problem by itself, it signifies major progress and sends a strong signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is ready to get serious on climate.

As recently as 2009, coal made up around 70% of Georgia's electric generation, meaning Georgia has historically been a disproportionate part of our country's carbon problem. What's more, Georgia is home to some of the biggest sources of carbon pollution, like Plant Scherer in Juliette, which is the biggest carbon polluter at over 21 million tons of carbon pollution, which is as much as 4.5 million cars put out each year.

Low natural gas prices as well as plummeting costs of clean, affordable energy like solar and wind have already helped Georgia Power to reduce its dependence on coal from 70% of its fuel mix to less than 40%. As a result, Georgia Power's carbon pollution has dropped by 22% all while Georgia's economy grew and recovered from the 2008 recession.

To set Georgia's 2030 carbon reduction target, EPA looked at Georgia's ability to improve efficiency at existing plants, utilize already built natural gas plants, and bring online more renewable energy and energy efficiency. Based on these factors,



it was determined that Georgia should reduce carbon by 44% from 2012 levels. Given our recent success growing our economy while reducing carbon pollution it is unfortunate that many Electric Membership Cooperatives and elected officials have vowed to fight the Clean Power Plan. These opponents argue the new rules will raise electricity prices, that the EPA is overstepping its authority, and that it is a part of the President's “war on coal” guaranteed to kill jobs in our state. Fortunately, these arguments hold little truth.

EPA “Overstep” a myth

In 2007, President George W. Bush's Supreme Court found that the Clean Air Act was ‘unambiguous’ in giving the Environmental Protection Agency authority to regulate greenhouse gas pollution if it endangered public health or the environment. After extensive research, EPA issued a scientific finding (known as the “Endangerment Finding”) which showed that greenhouse gas pollution absolutely threatens the health and well being of individuals as well as the stability of the climate. Even since the release of the “Clean Power Plan” in late June 2014, the Supreme Court again affirmed EPA's authority to regulate carbon pollution from power plants.

The Georgia targets that the Clean Power Plan sets assume

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the new nuclear units at Plant Vogtle should be one of the largest contributors to Georgia's carbon reduction plans (even when energy efficiency is our state's largest and cheapest untapped carbon-free resources). But, the State of Georgia – not EPA – will have to decide how to meet the state's carbon pollution reductions. So in 2015-2016, we will have the opportunity to convince Georgia EPD that energy efficiency and renewable energy are far better for Georgians than nuclear.

A Job Creator

Even in coal's brightest days in Georgia, when it was producing about 70% of our electricity, it accounted for only about 2,700 jobs in Georgia. In 2012, there were already 10,000 jobs in the solar, wind and energy efficiency industries in the United States, and those are the ones that are poised to continue to grow. EPA predicts that if states choose to rely on clean energy and energy efficiency to meet state carbon reduction targets, as many as 250,000 new jobs will be created. Georgia has the 5th highest potential for solar deployment, so just think of the success we can build on if we emphasize that strategy to meet our reduction target.

Decrease in electricity prices

If states like Georgia choose a plan that prioritize investment in affordable energy solutions like energy efficiency and clean solar power, EPA predicts utility customers could see an 8% decrease in electricity bills by 2030. If Georgia's offi-

cials decide to rely on investment in expensive nuclear power or unnecessary upgrades to aging and out-dated coal-plants Georgians may face rising electricity prices. Clean wind and solar energy are some of the most affordable and inexpensive energy sources on the market today. As these resources have begun to seep into Georgia Power's electricity mix over the last 3 years, they are consistently among the cheapest generation sources the company buys or produces. Nuclear energy and coal, though, are responsible for our bills going up.

The Opportunity

This is the beginning of what could be the biggest climate fight in US history. The proposed plan is already under attack by the fossil fuel industry, Georgia utilities, elected officials, and the billionaire Koch Brothers who are mobilizing like never before to send their lobbyists to Washington and fund astro-turf groups like "Georgia Energy Freedom Alliance" and Americans for Prosperity Georgia.

The Clean Power Plan will help spur a clean energy economy that can drive down electricity bills and create hundreds of thousands of dependable jobs. We must act to ensure the proposal is finalized and protect it from fossil-fuel funded climate deniers. EPA is hosting four public hearings around the country to solicit public input on the plan, and the first is being held right here in Atlanta.

Join hundreds of concerned citizens at the Atlanta Climate Rally, to be held on July 29th at 12 noon in Woodruff Park, to show your support for positive action to curb climate pollution. Let's show the world that the Southeast is ready for serious action to stop climate disruption!

Make Your Voice Heard in Atlanta July 29!



On June 2, the EPA proposed the Clean Power Plan, the first ever national plan to reduce carbon pollution from coal plants. Now they're holding public hearings on the new standard in just four cities around the country and Atlanta is one of them. We're organizing a rally and march of hundreds of people during the hearing, you should be there!

WHO: You, Sierra Club, and other climate and clean energy activists

WHAT: Rally and March to EPA headquarters

WHEN: Noon, Tuesday, July 29

WHERE: Woodruff Park, Atlanta

BUSES: Leaving from Memphis, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville, TN; Columbia and Greenville, South Carolina; Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky; Asheville, NC and Savannah, GA

Clean Energy Advocates, PSC Commissioners Tour Georgia's Wind Energy Future

By Seth Gunning

In 2014, Georgia's Public Service Commission (PSC) approved nearly 800 megawatts of new solar energy to be built by 2016. Prior to those decisions, Georgia had a total of 8 megawatts of installed solar capacity (enough to power 1,200 homes). With the PSC's decision, we have effectively grown our solar market 100 times over. However, before 2014, Georgia had yet to get into the wind energy game – currently having zero large scale wind energy generation in the portfolios of any of our electrical providers. By comparison, neighboring Alabama Power and TVA have 404 megawatts and 1500 megawatts of wind produced in the midwest and being imported into their states, respectively. In late 2014, Georgia Power submitted for approval their first ever wind contracts. The two contracts equaled 250 megawatts of wind power, imported from the Blue Canyon wind farms in Oklahoma. We celebrated, knowing that the low low cost of wind energy generation would likely lead the company and the PSC to want more.

By helping keep electricity rates low the Georgia PSC plays a major role in attracting new business and creating new jobs in Georgia. In addition, the PSC likes to support energy projects that create quality 21st century jobs in Georgia. Initially, some Public Service Commissioners may have felt uneasy about supporting energy projects developed outside the State of Georgia, but the Georgia Sierra Club's Wind Team – led by Eleanor Hand – knew that Georgia is home to 30 businesses in the wind energy supply chain, employing as many as 500 Georgians. So, we set out



Clean energy advocates, lead by the Chapter's Wind Team, joined with three of the five Public Service Commissioners for a daylong workshop and tour of Georgia's wind energy potential.

to tell the Public Service Commissioners the stories of the men and women already employed in the growing wind energy component manufacturing industry right in our backyard.

On Monday March 14th, Sierra Club brought together 30 policy-makers, regulators, grassroots leaders, and clean wind energy industry representatives for a “lunch and learn” event to learn about the existing wind energy supply chain in Georgia and to show the Commissioners how their decision to import more affordable wind energy helps build economic opportunities in Georgia. Specifically, and perhaps most importantly, 3 of our 5 elected Republican Public Service Commissioners and their PSC renewable energy staff spent all day with us.

We heard presentations from the American Wind Energy Association, the Southeast Coastal Wind Coalition, Georgia Tech, and several wind component manufacturers located in Georgia.

Goracon WindPower Access Systems of Lawrenceville, Hailo LLC of Elberton, and ZF Wind Power in Gainesville all gave presentations about their growing business. Participants were also privileged to tour the ZF Wind Power gearbox manufacturing facility in Gainesville, Ga which employs 140 Georgians making large components for clean wind energy.

Sharing the stories of individuals and companies who are having big economic development impacts in Georgia because of wind energy projects in the midwest, helped the Commissioners see this decision wrapped in the context of their favorite role as a public servant: job creators. A big “thanks!” is due to our sponsors and coalition partners, Greenlaw and American Wind Energy Association; our host, Commissioner Tim Echols; and our Wind Team leaders, Bonni DeMarco, Eleanor Hand, Cecilia Harris, and Steve Willis, who made this event a great success!

Vogtle Expansion Trudges On, Permits or Not

By Steve Willis

'Permits? We don't need no stinking permits!'

Paraphrasing the line spoken by the Mexican bandito character in the Humphrey Bogart movie, *Treasure of Sierra Madre*, this statement seems to encapsulate Southern Company's attitude towards obtaining the water permits required by the State of Georgia and the Government of the United States. Georgia law requires that major water withdrawals from state rivers must be shown to be necessary and prudent before being permitted. The Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which is delegated to Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD -- whose director is appointed by and reports directly to Governor Deal) for enforcement, requires permitting of pollutant discharges. Still, Southern Company has been pushing forward with construction of two enormously expensive nuclear reactors at Plant Vogtle near Augusta for more than three years without a water permit, and with no EPD objection. The separate Federally required NPDES permit request still hasn't seen the light of day.

Southern Company argues that this project will cost 14 billion dollars, but the actual price is already billions over budget, and many experts predict that the final price (if the project is ever completed, which is far from certain) will be well over 20 billion dollars -- possibly approaching the stratospheric, 1200% overruns experienced in the late 1970s when Southern Company built the first two reactors at Plant Vogtle.

On May 8, 2014, dozens of concerned Georgia citizens, (including Georgia Sierra Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan, Vice Chair Steve Wil-



lis, and Coastal Chair Karen Grainey), trekked up to the somewhat remote city of Waynesboro to give testimony at the EPD Southern Company permit request hearing. Southern Company is asking to be permitted to withdraw an additional 74 million gallons of water daily from the beleaguered Savannah River. This request, if approved, will bump the already permitted daily withdrawal of 127 million gallons for the two old Vogtle reactors up to a whopping total of 202 gallons million a day. Most of this withdrawn water will be evaporated into thin air and not returned to the river.

When recently questioned about the status of the Georgia Water Permit, EPD staff explained that over 200 public comments had been received, and all of them had to be responded to. This would take a long time -- apparently considerably longer than the month it has already taken. EPD delay only allows Southern Company to keep run-

ning up your bill, which includes hefty guaranteed profits, for the hyper-expensive Vogtle nuclear construction project. The current delay while construction is under way is a fairly obvious and underhanded ploy to allow the financial cost of stopping the project to become progressively more unacceptable than doing the right thing, safeguarding one of Georgia's most vital resources (the Savannah River) and denying the permit request.

But this is just the cover-up story. Southern Company has wrangled a deal with the PSC in which current hefty CWIP charges will continue to be loaded on residential users' bills, but on-going overruns will not be loaded on until the end of this decade, thus avoiding public outcries against the stealthily rising public indebtedness. The predictably huge increase to cover overruns will occur only after most of the current (and

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culpable) PSC Commissioners have moved on in their careers, leaving their replacements to claim innocence and ignorance of how residential rate payer's bills ever grew so large.

By law Southern Company is guaranteed full reimbursement for all prudently incurred costs and profit. Wholly owned Georgia Power was reported by SNL Financial to have the very highest ROE (essentially profit) of any American electric utility in 2013. Residential rate payers and small businesses will be compelled to pay. None of this money will be returned to the Georgia rate payer even if the project fails (which the Federal Government Accounting Office (GAO) reckons to be at least a 50% chance). From the get-go, Georgia's legislators excused large industrial users from paying their share of the Vogtle expansion under the 2009 pay-in-advance, Construction Work in Progress (CWIP) law

Southern Company has already soaked up nearly a billion dollars from Georgia's residential and small business rate payers through CWIP charges, which are now 9.31% of your bill and are expected to go up an additional 4% or more between now and the time almost certain major additional overruns are tallied and slapped on your bills according to the PSC deal.

Even if the two new Vogtle reactors are ever completed, what then? Over 4 gigawatts of Georgia's electricity needs will be furnished by a single site which is 100% dependent upon the flow of the endangered Savannah River, in a time of unprecedented drought threat. Georgia's entire electricity generation capacity is now 9 gigawatts; the loss of 4 gigawatts of power would certainly leave all of Georgia in a blackout, probably for a long, long time. We are in a time of consequences. Look before you leap.

It seems clear to the inquisitive citizen that Southern Company, the Governor and Georgia's elected officials at the PSC, as well as the Governor's Environmental Protection Division, consider their legal responsibility to protect Georgia's environment and its most irreplaceable natural resources as a trivial nuisance. Even a resource as important as the Savannah River, which has no remaining assimilative capacity (i.e., it so loaded with pollution that any additional discharges are forbidden by law), has been consistently rated at one of the most polluted and endangered rivers in the US, and lies within a region the recent National Climate Assessment report predicted will suffer a 25-50% increase in water loss during the next 45 years due to the effects of global warming. Apparently that does not warrant their serious concern, as demonstrated convincingly by their cursory treatment of this spectacularly ill-advised request to withdraw even more water from a river which is already completely tapped-out.

Joining Hands for Clean Energy



On May 17, over fifty people joined hands on the beach on Tybee Island to raise awareness about the dangers of dirty fuels and the need to speed the transition to available, affordable clean energy.

It was part of a synchronized global event called Hands Across the Sand sponsored by the Sierra Club, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Oceana, Gulf Restoration Network, Surfrider Foundation, Center for a Sustainable Coast and several other organizations. Hands Across the Sand was founded in 2010 and grew into an international movement after the BP oil disaster in April of that year. People came together to join hands, forming symbolic barriers against spilled oil and to stand against the impacts of other forms of extreme energy.

This year events were held in nearly 100 locations across the U.S. and in 43 countries. Thanks to the efforts of the Georgia Chapter Sierra Club, Surfrider Foundation Georgia Chapter, and Center for a Sustainable Coast, one of these events appropriately took place on the Georgia coast which is vulnerable to sea-level rise and extreme weather events caused by global warming. Also, Georgia's 400,000 acres of ecologically important salt marsh will be exposed to the risk of oil spills if Bureau of Ocean Energy Management plans to permit oil and gas exploration off the East coast are carried out.

Of particular concern to those gathered by the Tybee Pier were plans to allow the use of seismic air guns, with a noise 100,000 times more intense than a jet engine, to find offshore oil and gas deposits. The use of these air guns will disturb, injure or kill thousands of whales and dolphins and harm commercial fisheries.

- Karen Grainey, Coastal Group Chair

Clayton County MARTA Expansion Takes Big Step Forward

By David Emory, RAIL Chair

An unprecedented coalition of public transportation advocates, with the Georgia Sierra Club's Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Campaign playing a leading role, scored a historic victory in July, as Clayton County officials finally agreed to let residents vote on whether to join MARTA as a full member this year. The vote sets up our first serious chance to expand the state's largest transit provider since it was initially established as a two-county system serving Fulton and DeKalb in 1971.

On Saturday, July 5th, for the third time in as many weeks, transit advocates packed the Clayton County Commission chambers in Jonesboro, watching as a majority of commissioners voted, just one day ahead of a legislatively-imposed deadline, to accept a proposed contract with MARTA that would begin building a world-class bus and rail transit system in Clayton as soon as next year. The issue now goes before Clayton voters on the November 4th ballot, four years after citizens overwhelmingly approved a non-binding ballot question on MARTA expansion. Now, they have a chance to approve it for real.

This victory was the result of tireless effort by Sierra Club staff and volunteers, working alongside an impressive array of community partners. Chapter organizer Brionte McCorkle has been a constant presence in Clayton County over the last year, helping build the on-the-ground infrastructure that made this victory possible. That work has been a part of the larger umbrella of the Friends of Clayton Transit, a coalition that also includes former State Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Citizens for Progressive Transit, Southern Environmental Law Center, Georgia Stand-Up, the Partnership for Southern Equity, the Center for Transportation Excellence, and many committed grassroots advocates in Clayton County and beyond. Thanks are also in order to Rep. Mike Glanton, who car-



A few of the people the helped make the recent success in Clayton a reality (l-r): Clayton County Commission Chair Jeff Turner, MARTA Board Chair Robbie Ashe, Rhonda Briggins-Ridley of MARTA, Deborah Scott of Georgia Stand-Up, Maceo Williams, Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Lee Biola of Citizens for Progressive Transit, Colleen Kiernan, and MARTA GM/CEO Keith Parker. Not pictured, but very much central to the Clayton MARTA Campaign, is the Chapter's transportation organizer, Brionte McCorkle.

ried the state legislation authorizing the MARTA vote, and the Chapter's legislative team, led by Neill Herring and Mark Woodall, who have diligently monitored the issue for us at the Gold Dome.

The Clayton MARTA campaign has been the centerpiece of the Chapter's transportation efforts for over a year now. In the two years since the T-SPLOST was defeated in Atlanta, several key components of the Chapter's "Plan B" transportation platform have started falling into place. Just months after the referendum failed, MARTA hired Keith Parker, a reform-minded outsider, as its General Manager, and we have since seen dramatic improvements in the agency's finances and operations. In the 2013 legislative session, the State of Georgia took the landmark step of providing ongoing annual funding for transit operations after decades of resistance.

And now, we are another seeing another pillar of our post-2012 transportation agenda – using the existing legislative framework to continue building out the regional transit system in Atlanta – come to fruition. MARTA was originally envisioned as a five-county sys-

tem, and under the 1965 MARTA Act, Clayton, Cobb, and Gwinnett Counties are eligible to join Fulton and DeKalb as full participants in the system. Expansion to Clayton is now tantalizingly close, and even expansion to Gwinnett and Cobb is beginning to look more feasible. Meanwhile, we are seeing serious discussion of state support for transit for the first time in recent memory.

While we are excited by those prospects, our most immediate priority is finishing the job in Clayton County. A strong showing of pro-transit voters in Clayton on November 4th will not only ensure a convincing victory for the MARTA referendum, but will also provide a boost to Chapter-endorsed statewide candidates like Jason Carter and Michelle Nunn, who would be important allies for the Sierra Club's efforts on sustainable transportation and many other issues. Please contact [brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org](mailto:mccorkle@sierraclub.org), follow us on Facebook and Twitter for information on how to get involved with the Chapter's RAIL Campaign, and stay tuned as we continue to help write the next chapter in Atlanta's rich transit history.

Earth Day Outrage Ignites Public Resolve to Protect Coastal Marshlands

By Karen Grainey

With brazen disregard for the spirit of the law, Governor Nathan Deal's Environmental Protection Division chose Earth Day to announce that they will no longer enforce a 25-foot buffer requirement between the salt marsh and adjacent land development.

Why? EPD Director Judson Turner claims that he is following the letter of the law as written in the 1978 Erosion and Sedimentation Act which established a 25-foot vegetated buffer along all "waters of the state," with buffers to be measured from the point of "wrested vegetation." The term "wrested vegetation" refers to plants twisted or torn clear by the movement of water. This is easily observed along the bank of a river or a mountain stream, but does not occur along the marsh edge where the tidal ebb and flow does not move fast enough to bend the plants growing there. According to Turner, "Where evidence of wrested vegetation is not present, a buffer is not provided by statute and will thus not be enforced." The Earth Day directive fails to mention the other "waters of the state" such as freshwater wetlands where "wrested vegetation" is also absent, but it stands to reason that buffer protections for these waters are also in jeopardy.

For nearly forty years the EPD has not allowed the problematic language regarding "wrested vegetation" to prevent the application of buffer requirements to coastal marshlands because it was clearly the intent of the legislators who passed the Erosion and Sedimentation Act to protect all "waters of the state". In 1993, the Attorney General published an opinion stating that the 25-foot buffer should "be retained adjacent to any state waters, including, but not limited to, ponds, lakes, reservoirs, and coastal marshes." And in 2004,



Intrusive marshland development such as that pictured here could become a more common sight because of the recent EPD announcement.

EPD Director Carol Couch clarified the issue further by stating in a directive that marsh buffers would be measured from the "jurisdictional line" as established in the 1970 Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.

Buffers that filter pollutants and sediments in storm water runoff are the most effective tool available to prevent damage from the very difficult to manage problem of non-point source pollution. Without buffers there really is no practical way to maintain water quality as more land is developed along our fragile coastline. It is also important to recognize that buffers have an important role to play in protecting coastal residents from storm surge, flooding and extreme weather events as sea-level rise accelerates because of global warming.

Ever since University of Georgia ecologist Eugene Odum first revealed that salt marshes are the most biologically productive ecosystem an Earth, Georgian's have quite rightly taken pride in protecting the nearly 400,000

acres that grace our 100-mile coastline. As development pressures and sea-level rise threaten irreparable harm, rather than eliminating buffers, a responsible and responsive government would be contemplating increasing the width of marsh buffers to keep up with the latest science which recommends marsh buffers between 75 and 150 feet.

The disingenuous claims of Nathan Deal's appointee thinly veil an obvious political agenda to weaken environmental regulations, and Georgia citizens are expressing their outrage with letters, phone calls and petitions demanding the restoration of the marsh buffer. Well over a thousand Sierra Club members fired off an email to the Governor, and the Center for a Sustainable Coast is currently circulating a petition on MoveOn.org: <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/restore-georgias-marsh>. If you have not yet contacted the Governor or your legislators, please do so by signing the petition today.

Chapter Welcomes Maria Adams to Staff



Chapter Volunteer Coordinator Maria Adams (r) with Conservation Coordinator Brionté McCorkle at this year's Paddle Georgia.

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Chapter Volunteer Coordinator, Maria Adams.

Maria comes to us from San Francisco where she was a Community Organizer at PICO, a faith-based community organizing group, where she worked on food desert issues in San Francisco (very successfully, I might add!). She moved to Okinawa, Japan for a few years where she was a Volunteer Coordinator for the USO. She met her husband, an Army specialist, there and they relocated to Georgia last August so he could take a position working on satellites. They just closed on a house in Stockbridge, so they are in it for at least awhile here in Georgia!

Please join me in welcoming Maria; we are so excited to have her on board. You can reach her at maria.adams@sierra-club.org and 404-607-1262 x221.

- Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director

Chapter Office Moves Next Door

If you're a regular visitor to the Chapter office in Decatur, you'll notice a recent change: we've moved one door down in the East Decatur Station complex, swapping spots with Camp Scene, which had outgrown their space. Note that main entrance to the new office is in what we previously considered the "back" of the building, accessed through the gate on Sams Street.



Sierra Club Endorses Jason Carter for Governor

The Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club has announced its endorsement of Jason Carter for Governor of Georgia. As a state senator, Carter has built a consistent track record of protecting Georgia's environment and public health.

"Once our natural resources have been destroyed, there's no going back. That's why I am a proud advocate for our environment and have fought against proposals that threaten our coast, our rivers, and our water supply. My record on the environment won't change when I'm governor," said Jason Carter.

Governor Deal chose Earth Day to announce elimination of the 25-foot buffer that has protected coastal marshland in Georgia since 2004. The buffer has protected coastal areas from storm surges, kept marine life and fisheries healthy and filtered pollution from the water. Georgia is home to one-third of all salt marsh on the East Coast of the United States. Governor Deal's decision jeopardizes hundreds of thousands of vital salt marsh acres.

"Where Governor Deal and his cronies have stalled or rolled back critical coastal protections, Jason Carter will move Georgia forward," said Mark Woodall, chair of the Georgia Chapter. "Governor Deal's friends in the state legislature are also playing roulette with aquifers that supply millions of gallons of water for Georgia agriculture and industry. Jason Carter can and will do better for our coast and water resources."

In addition, while every other East Coast state has partnered with the Department of the Interior's "Smart from the Start" program to streamline the siting, permitting and leasing for offshore wind, under Governor Deal's leadership, Georgia sat on the sidelines. Since the 2007 "Southern Winds" study demonstrated significant potential off the Georgia coast, Georgia has made virtually no progress in setting ourselves up for steel in the water.

"Jason Carter has proven that he is the only candidate in the field willing to protect Georgia's coast and environment. He has committed to supporting Georgia's growing clean energy industries, which provide jobs while protecting our air and water," said Georgia Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan. "The Sierra Club will proudly mobilize our members toward Jason Carter candidacy for Governor of Georgia."



"Rivers Alive" Award

The Sierra Centennial Group members continue to lead the way in protecting our natural resources! Members Ina Allison and Carina O'Bara, who volunteer year-round with Cobb County's Adopt-A-Stream program, were among the recipients of a recent award from the Environmental Protection Division's "Rivers Alive" program. The "Rivers Alive" Awards honor the efforts of individuals and groups who are working to improve Georgia's waterways. Several Cobb County departments were recognized in May for their joint efforts organizing volunteer cleanups with groups like ours. The Centennial Group is proud to have a strong contingent of Adopt-A-Stream volunteers.

Learn more about Adopt-A-Stream program at our September meeting.

Recent Monthly Meetings and Programs

At our April meeting, we kicked off Earth month with a fun game of Earth trivia. We learned a lot of facts about Earth Day and environmental laws; many were surprised to find out that there is an International Earth Day, March 21st. Our group participated in several tabling events during April.

In May, Dr. Cornelia Cho, President of the Mushroom Club of Georgia, amazed us with her presentation "Mushrooms as Allies for Care of the Environment". We were excited to learn about such things as the use of "mushfoam", as a replacement for Styrofoam.

In June, Carter and Olivia Ries, ages 13 and 11, and their dad, Jim, founders of the non-profit OMG, "One More Generation", talked to us about their efforts to educate the public on endangered species and the effects of plastic on wildlife. Their organization is doing amazing things to protect our environment. Learn more at onemoregeneration.org.



Getting Outdoors – On April 26, Bob Springfield took a group to Smith Gilbert Gardens for a docent led tour and a picnic lunch afterwards on the beautiful grounds of the gardens.

Roger Buerki, long-time Sierran who helped to create the legislation providing for the Chattahoochee National Recreational Area (CNRA), our local "wilderness" gem, has teamed with our outing chair, Andy Mycroft, to lead a series of hikes in the CNRA.

Bob & Connie Fletcher Receive Honor

The Centennial Group presented an Environmental Volunteer Service Award to members Bob and Connie Fletcher, to recognize them for over 45 years of service in the Sierra Club. The Fletchers are lifetime members of the Club and have been active in the Centennial Group since its founding in 1992.



Bob began working on the climate change long before the issue became well-known. In more recent years he served as a volunteer lobbyist for the Georgia Chapter. For years he would travel daily to the Gold Dome to lobby for green causes. At the Dome he was known as Commander Fletcher, a position he held in the U.S. Coast Guard. One of his most passionate issues was protecting the integrity of the Georgia Solid Waste Trust Fund. For years Bob worked to ensure that tire fee funds would be properly used to finance the Trust Fund, instead of being diverted elsewhere.

It is with both joy and sadness that we say goodbye to the Fletchers, who are moving to Pennsylvania to be closer to their grandchildren. We wish them the best in their next life adventure.

Upcoming Meetings & Programs

August 7 – Member Jorg Voss, presents "Sex in the Garden". The book *Sex in your Garden* written by Angela Overy, inspired Jorg to develop a science-based presentation about Earth history, Life history and botanical evolution, with emphasis on the profound need of life to survive and procreate. We will learn about pollinators and see various plant families which nourish us and assure our survival.

September 4 – Ina Allison and Carina O'Bara provide an update on our "Adopt-A-Stream" program and the award-winning efforts of Centennial volunteers. Learn how you can get involved in the Adopt-A-Stream program.

Regular meetings are held every 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at Life University, Upper Gymnasium, 1269 Barclay Circle SE., Room 311, Marietta GA. For directions please see website or Facebook page. To receive up to date information, please subscribe to our E-newsletter.

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

Don't forget to "Like" us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club>

Streetcars Return to Atlanta



The golden age of streetcars in Atlanta ended just over 65 years ago. Now soon, the new streetcars will travel between Centennial Olympic Park and Martin Luther King Jr. historic district. The system will have 12 stops on its 2.7 mile loop route, which will travel in one direction. Top speed is 20 MPH, so it will take only about 10 miles to make the circuit.

The streetcar staff was not able to tack down a specific date for passenger service. It was electrified on May 30, and there will be a 60-90 day test period. So we could start riding as soon as this fall. For the first 3 months, it will be free. After that it will operate with the Breeze Card.

For more information and to see what the route will be like, go to: <http://streetcar.atlantaga.gov/>

- D. Gordon Draves



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Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
PO Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041
or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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Upcoming Meetings & Programs

Metro Atlanta Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Snacks at 7:00 PM, program begins at 7:30 (directions at bottom) except for June picnic.

August 12 Meeting: Geology - Bill Witherspoon of Fernback Science Center teaches students and the public about geology.

Bill will lead a hike before the meeting: Gather at 6:30 PM at the old trolley shelter across the street from the church—it is at the common traffic signal for Ponce de Leon Avenue, Ponce de Leon Manor and East Lake Drive. We will descend to the creek in Deepdene Park to see some very old rocks, a variety of plants, maybe see or hear an owl or woodpecker, and see trees undercut by the creek. Then we go to the church for refreshments and Bill's talk

September 9 Meeting: To be Announced; Check Website for Details

Adopt-A-Stream Program

Upcoming Dates:

- Chemical monitoring in July/August TBD; Please Call
- **Saturday, September 13** - Biological & Chemical

We meet 10 AM to noon on South Fork of Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park, north of Decatur. For biologic monitoring, we need many eyes to find the critters of the creek.

From Clairmont Rd. (between N. Decatur and N. Druid Hill roads.) take Desmond Dr. (third street north of N. Decatur Rd.) until it intersects with Willivee Dr. Turn left and follow Willivee around to Scott Circle where you turn right. Parking is on your left when you reach the park.

Park in the middle, and walk the dirt road with the 2-story building on your left and ball fields on either side, go into the woods behind ball field #5. Bear left and you will see us at a picnic table.

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.

General Membership meetings are open to the public and 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.

For more information, updates, and new events please see: <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/atlanta/>

LaGrange Group

Exploring the Chattahoochee Valley Blueway

The LaGrange group has decided to embrace a “yes, in my backyard!” philosophy when it comes to outings. From organic farms to hiking trails to rivers, we have many opportunities for exploration of the natural world in our region. One of the programs we enjoyed this year was given by Debra Edelson from the Trust for Public Land (TPL). She enthusiastically shared with us a project being developed by TPL in partnership with communities along a 52 mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River between West Point Lake and Columbus. The plan is to create a blueway or water trail that includes launch points, portages and camping spots for canoeists, kayakers, anglers and rafters.

In the Sierra Club tradition, we plan to offer 2 outings on the proposed Chattahoochee Valley Blueway for exploration and enjoyment, as well as education, and hopefully to increase support for this project. We invite you to join us on any of the following adventures:

Sunday, August 24th, 1-6 pm: Float Trip

We will again join the Middle Chattahoochee River Stewards for a more challenging 6 mile section of the Chattahoochee between Langdale, Al. and Lake Harding, north of Columbus. This section includes 2 portages around dams. Again you may either bring your own boat or pay to borrow one owned by Middle Chattahoochee River Stewards. Open only to intermediate/advanced level boaters.

September (Date TBA): Rafting Trip

For the high adventure seekers, we will join Whitewater Express for rafting trip on the newly designed whitewater venue on the section of the Chattahoochee River near downtown Columbus. Stand Up Paddleboard, kayaking and tubing options on calm water also available.

Contact either Joanna Baxter: joannabbaxter@yahoo.com or Laura Breyfogle: breyfogle@charter.net to register.



Scenes from recent LaGrange Group activities.

Savannah River Group

Our June meeting offered a suggestion for beating those “It’s too hot for hiking” woes. Larry Winslet, with his superb photography, enticed us to visit the many hiking sites in cooler north Georgia with its many wilderness areas. And since our Group can also take advantage of being close to South Carolina, Outings Leader Cathy Black offered a June week-end camping trip to Oconee State Park in Sumter National Forest. There are lots of good Sierra ways to beat that heat!



To broaden our outreach in the Augusta area, we have started a new tabling endeavor by participating in Evans Towne Farmers market sponsored by Augusta Locally Grown. As most of you know, buying locally is one way to help cut CO2 by reducing long transport of fresh vegetables and fruits. Most of the foods offered are also grown organically. At our booth we emphasize the connection between buying locally and protection of the environment (see photo). Many folks who stopped to talk to us had never contemplated the connection between the environment and buying locally.

Greater Gwinnett Group

Summertime (and as the song goes) the living is easy. Not! There is so much going on that you would not think the temperature is making being outside almost unbearable. President Obama and the Environmental Protection Division have proposed the first-ever limits on carbon from power plants - the largest source of climate pollution. Atlanta is the site of one of only four hearings across the country. This is an opportunity to have input on this very important issue. Sign up to have give your input here.

On Thursday, June 19, the Gwinnett Group held our annual picnic at McDaniel Farm Park. Our July meeting will host Seth Gunning discussing solar the Georgia Chapter’s alternative energy plans and Paula Branson will lead our August meeting with her discussion of GMOs and how their consequences on Georgia forests.

There is a lot going on with the Gwinnett Group. Come see what summer is like in Gwinnett.

- Dan Friedman

Chapter Contacts

Executive Committee

Chair: Mark Woodall, 706-674-2242,
woodallmark8@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Vice Chair - Administration: Midge Sweet,
404-667-4476, sweetmidge@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

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

Sara Black, 205-612-3204
saratombblack@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

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

Laura Breyfogle, 706-845-7235,
breyfogle@charter.net
LaGrange Group Delegate

Todd Daniel, 678-567-2052,
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At-Large Elected Member

Jackie Echols, 678-974-7927
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At-Large Elected Member

Eddie Ehlert, 770-402-0087,
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Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

David Emory, 404-433-4914,
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At-Large Elected Member

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

Bettye Harris, 770-578-1186,
bettyeharris@gmail.com
Centennial Group Delegate

Norman Slawsky, 404-664-6259
nslawsky@gmail.com
At-Large Elected Member

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, July 19th at the Chapter office in Decatur. Meetings are open to the membership. For more information, call the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221.

Officers & Chairs

Conservation Chair: Alan Toney,
mudflat@comcast.net

Secretary: Todd Daniel, todddan@mac.com

Treasurer: Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

Finance Chair: Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Fundraising Chair: *vacant*
Meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month, 6:00 p.m., Chapter Office. Contact the Chapter office at 404-607-1262 x221 for more information.

Human Resources Chair: Norman Slawsky,
nslawsky@gmail.com

Legislative Chair: Mark Woodall,
woodallmark8@gmail.com

Litigation Chair: Norman Slawsky,
nslawsky@gmail.com

Membership Chair: Ross Cheairs,
cheairsjr@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: David Emory,
gasieran@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Sammy Padgett,
sammypadgett@comcast.net

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
edehkert@bellsouth.net

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Issue Campaigns and Contacts

Clean Air: Dale Kemmerick,
dalekemm@comcast.net

Coastal Issues: Steve Willis,
snwillis@yahoo.com

• **Coastal Marsh:** Karen Grainey,
karengrainey@bellsouth.net

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

• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,
scollier@mindspring.com

• **Savannah Port:** Steve Willis,
snwillis@yahoo.com

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

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

Population: Todd Daniel,
todddan@mac.com

Recycling: Lori Blank, lblank@hotmail.com

Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL):
David Emory, david.emory@gmail.com
Meeting: 4th Monday, 7 p.m., chapter office.
Committee sometimes skips months. E-mail first.

Smart Energy Solutions:

Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net and
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com
Meeting: 1st Monday, 7 p.m. chapter office

• **Beyond Coal:** Seth Gunning,
seth.gunning@sierraclub.org

• **Natural Gas:** *vacant*

• **Nuclear:** Glenn Carroll, atom.girl@nonukesyall.org

• **Solar:** Thomas Jackson, tj31975@gmail.com

• **Wind:** Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net

Water Sentinels / Adopt-a-Stream:

Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

Wildlands and Wildlife:

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

• **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:**
Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.com

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

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

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

Georgia Chapter Staff

Chapter Director:

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

Chapter Conservation Coordinator:

Briante McCorkle, 404-607-1262 x.232
briante.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

Chapter Volunteer Coordinator:

Maria Adams, 404-607-1262 x.221
maria.adams@sierraclub.org

National Staff

Associate Press Secretary:

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

Beyond Coal Organizer:

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

Sierra Club National Programs

Inner City Outings

Contact Terri Lyde (lydeterri@bellsouth.net) for more information.

Sierra Student Coalition

Contact Tyler Faby (tfaby@uga.com) for more information.

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 / Meetings Contact: Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com

Outings Chair: Anderson Mycroft, awmycroft@yahoo.com

Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/refreshments 7:00 p.m., program 7:30 p.m.; Life College, 1269 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions contact Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com.

Coastal Group

Serving Savannah & surrounding counties

Chair: Karen Grainey, karengrainey@bellsouth.net

Outings Chair: Steve Wagner, sjwgnr@hotmail.com

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

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett Co.

Chair: Dan Friedman, dan3688@aol.com

Conservation Chair: Art Sheldon, asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org

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

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

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Sim Blitch simblich@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, joannabbaxter@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

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

Co-Chair: Konrad Hayashi, rainingatl@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy mcmarty@bellsouth.net

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

Savannah River Group

Serving Augusta & surrounding areas

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

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

Conservation Chair: Frank Carl, frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair: Cathy Black, sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

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

Regional Contacts

LeConte Group/Athens & NE Ga.

Terry Jones, wolpers4@aol.com

Forsyth County

Jim Callison, callisonjim@bellsouth.net

Macon

Fletcher Winston, winston_f@mercer.edu

North Georgia

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

Looking for a Group near your home?

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

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Georgia Chapter Office

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

Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club office:

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

Stay Informed!

SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:

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

GA Chapter Outings:

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

GA Chapter Email Lists Site:

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

EMAIL LISTS

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

LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

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

Subscribe to the Smart Energy Solutions listserve at gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at: http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP_GA_Signup

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



PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

Chapter Outings Program

The Georgia Chapter and its local groups organize outings around the state year-round. 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, August 3rd

Horn Creek Trail Hike

Time: 8:00 AM

Location: Sumter National Forest

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Leader: Cathy Black (706-284-0230, sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com)

Registration: Optional

Rated: Easy

Description: Horn Creek Trail Hike. Easy 5.7 mile hike in Sumter National Forest. It sounds long but we will take it easy. Join us in the cool of the morning. Contact Cathy Black at sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

Sierra Club 101



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

Join us on **Saturday, August 2nd** from 10:30 AM to noon for Sierra Club 101, your crash course on the Club, the Georgia Chapter, and our issues. Meet with volunteer leaders and staff at the Sierra Club office at 743B East College Ave., Decatur as we introduce you to our Sierra Club.

Go to georgia.sierraclub.org/sc101 to RSVP or contact Maria Adams at maria.adams@sierraclub.org if you have questions.

JOIN US FOR SIERRA CLUB & BEER



Join us on **July 23rd** where our topic will be the EPA's Clean Power Plan and the upcoming Atlanta hearing and rally.

*Wednesday, July 23rd
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Edgewood Speakeasy
327 Edgewood Ave SE
Atlanta, GA 30312*

Suggested Donation: \$5

Call for Chapter ExCom Nominations

The Chapter Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for the Executive Committee (ExCom). The Chapter ExCom has oversight responsibility for the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club to ensure that it is carrying out our mission productively. If you know of someone who would be a good ExCom member, or if you are interested in serving yourself, contact Mark Woodall at woodallmark8@gmail.com no later than August 15, 2014. Chapter and Group candidate statements and any nomination petitions for petition candidates must be submitted by September 1, 2014. You may refer to the Chapter website (georgia.sierraclub.org) to review the responsibilities of ExCom.

Complete rules for the election are posted on the Sierra Club website. Ballots with candidate statements will be mailed by October 15th. Ballots must be received by 5 PM, Thursday, November 13th and will be counted at 6:30 PM on November 13 in the Chapter Office in Decatur. Details for returning ballots and ballot counting will be published in the next *Sierran*.