

# GEORGIA



# SIERRAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER • JAN / FEB / MAR 2021



**INSIDE: THE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN 2021**

**PLUS 2020 POLITICAL RECAP • CLEANING UP COAL ASH • 2021 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW**

**JOINING A CLEAN ENERGY CAMPAIGN • LOCAL GROUP REPORTS AND MORE!**

## AT THE TRAILHEAD

Welcome to the Georgia Sierran's first issue of 2021!

In this issue, we are discussing the many ways Sierra Club Georgia Chapter members can get involved in our work.

Before we get to how you can get plugged in to our campaigns, we thought it would be helpful to kick off this issue with an explanation of what the Georgia Chapter is and how it works.

The Georgia Chapter is one of more than 60 Sierra Club chapters in the U.S. and we have a long history of advocating for the environment in Georgia. Established in 1983, the Chapter has fought to preserve and protect the Okefenokee Swamp, National Forests, rivers, lakes, and other special places in Georgia. We also campaign for a just transition from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy, and the expansion of transit across the state.

We actively lobby all levels of government in Georgia to advocate for pro-environmental policies, inspire deep connections to the natural world through our outings program (though outings are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and work to build movements among environmental activists at events throughout the year.

Like many chapters, the Georgia Chapter is governed by a volunteer Executive Committee, or ExCom (see page 3 to learn about the new members joining our ExCom in 2021).

The members of our ExCom are chosen by Georgia Chapter members in annual elections that take place in the final months of each year.

The ExCom sets chapter-wide policy, approves a budget for the Chapter, and generally oversees the Chapter's work.

The Chapter has six staff members: a chapter director, two conservation organizers, a communications coordinator, a development associate, and a volunteer coordinator/administrative assistant.

We are also lucky here in Georgia to have two national staff members (an organizer for our Beyond Coal Campaign and a campaign representative from the Sierra Club's Military Outdoors Program).

The Georgia Chapter's work is divided among several issue committees and teams, each focused on a different topic. The committees consider policies, legislation, ideas, and efforts related to their particular topic areas.

Club members and interested activists are welcome to attend committee meetings and bring up issues the committee might be interested in.

All meetings can be found on our online calendar at [sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar](https://sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar).

Check pages 7-12 to see updates from each of our committees and learn more about what they do.

The Chapter also has local groups that focus on conservation issues within their geographic boundaries. Each group is run by its own volunteer ExCom. To read more about our local groups, see pages 13-17.

Thanks for supporting the Georgia Chapter! We look forward to moving forward together.

# GEORGIA SIERRAN

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### Editorial Team

Kendall Dennis, Bettye Harris, Ricky Leroux, Jessica Morehead, Cynthia Patterson, Jeff Schoenberg, Hobart Stocking

### Submissions & Volunteering

Articles: Send materials to [gasierran@gmail.com](mailto:gasierran@gmail.com). Maximum word length: 750 words with one high-resolution digital photo (200 dpi). For more information, or to join the committee, email [gasierran@gmail.com](mailto:gasierran@gmail.com).

### Address Changes

Send address changes to:  
Sierra Club Georgia Chapter  
743 East College Avenue, Suite B  
Decatur, GA 30030  
Or by email to:  
[address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)

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### On the Cover

Photo: A collage of photos showing ways Sierra Club members have been involved over the last year

## IN THIS ISSUE

*Chapter News* • Page 3  
*Getting Involved in 2021* • Pages 4-5  
*2020 Volunteer Awards* • Page 6  
*Committee Reports* • Pages 7-12  
*Group News* • Pages 13-17  
*Directory* • Pages 18-19

# WELCOME TO THE NEW DIGITAL SIERRAN!

It's the beginning of a new era for the Georgia Sierran! Many of you are reading this issue on your computers or phones for the first time. We want to thank everyone who helped make this digital transition as easy as possible, particularly Linda McBurney (see page 6).

One of the benefits of this new digital transition: links in this issue can be clicked! No more retyping or copy/pasting URLs.

If you would like to request a paper copy of this magazine instead, go to [bit.ly/sierran](https://bit.ly/sierran) and fill out the form.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### UPDATES FROM THE EQUITY COMMITTEE

The Georgia Chapter Equity Committee is excited to announce its reconnection after a brief hiatus. The committee is working internally to define and communicate its role and goals within the Chapter, and the integration of the committee's work across the Chapter is already underway.

In the meantime, the Equity Committee suggests two resources to help align and center our work on equity and commend these publications to you, as well: the Jemez Principles (for Democratic Organizing) and the Racial Healing Handbook by Anneliese Singh. Be on the lookout for more work from the Equity Committee in 2021!

- Jemez Principles: [ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf](https://ejnet.org/ej/jemez.pdf)
- Racial Healing Handbook by Anneliese Singh: [newharbinger.com/racial-healing-handbook](https://newharbinger.com/racial-healing-handbook)

### UPDATES ON OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE

We hope this issue finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Our hearts go out to those who have lost love ones to COVID-19, those who have lost their jobs, those who face eviction or their utilities being shut off, and everyone whose lives have been impacted by this pandemic.

Many of us may be feeling "COVID fatigue" after months of lockdown and missing spending time with family and friends during the holidays. There is finally an end in sight thanks to some good news about vaccines, so we urge you to hold on a little longer and keep following scientists' recommendations to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Please continue to take precautions to protect yourself, your family, and your community: wear a mask in public places, practice physical distancing, wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, and stay home as much as possible.

Chapter staff members are continuing to work from home and will do so through at least the first half of 2021. The Chapter office in Decatur remains closed, our events and meetings are being held virtually, and all outings are on hold until further notice.

For the latest on our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and links to many available community resources, visit [sierraclub.org/georgia/coronavirus-updates](https://sierraclub.org/georgia/coronavirus-updates). And be sure to check our calendar at [sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar](https://sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar) for all our upcoming virtual events.

### THANKS TO OUTGOING EXCOM MEMBERS & WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to the members of our Executive Committee (ExCom) elected in November:

Gustavo Arce, Natasha Dyer, Phyllis Richardson, and Nancy Daves. Nancy was re-elected to serve another term, while Gustavo, Natasha, and Phyllis are all new members of ExCom. Thanks to

all four for agreeing to volunteer on ExCom, which is the primary governing body for the Georgia Chapter.

The Georgia Chapter also extends a sincere thank you to outgoing ExCom members Mark Woodall, Seth Gunning, and Stacy Shelton for their years of service as leaders in the chapter. Woodall will continue in his role as Conservation Chair and Legislative Committee Chair. And Gunning will remain involved in the Sierra Club's legislative work as well.



GUSTAVO ARCE



NATASHA DYER



PHYLLIS RICHARDSON



NANCY DAVES



## How the COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the way we work together

**BY TIA FAY, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AND ADMIN ASSISTANT, SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER**

Over the past several months, we've all had to shift our understanding of community – what it looks like, how we build it, and how we lean on the power of this community to move the needle in our work.

Organizing is built from relationships; community is the foundation of our work. Often though, when we throw around the word "community," it's generalized – hope for a future society built around equitable opportunity, where community gardens abound, with improved transit options in every town. In this dreamland, everyone knows each others' names, recycles, and lives in solar powered homes. No wonder this is what we think of first, it sounds glorious.

It also sounds vague. While we certainly hope for a future where individuals take these actions, this thinking can trick us into bypassing the crucial work of connecting with others and engaging in the organized process of community building. We risk unfocused work and individualist thinking.

To achieve our goals, we must act



During the pre-COVID days, we were able to gather in person and work together, like we did at this September 2019 event. Today, because we can't physically get together, we have to rethink what it means to build community.

with others, in the here and now. Collective action is how we move the needle.

To help us get more specific in the ways we think about community, let's borrow from the Pomegranate Center in Washington State. There, founder Milenko Matanovic says we think of community in two critical ways: proximity and affinity.

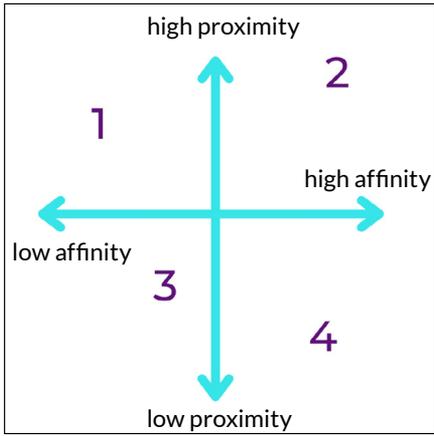
**PROXIMITY:** a shared place and space

**AFFINITY:** a shared value and goal

Thinking about these two definitions in relationship to each other allows us to think about communities we're part of with far more specificity. You could even throw them up on a graph, and actually map communities we're part of. This gives us an opportunity to get tactile – chart our current relationships and therefore, our potential pathways for action.

We've long understood the greatest potential for impact lies at the

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A chart showing the relationship between proximity (the vertical axis) and affinity (the horizontal axis).

intersection of highest proximity and highest affinity – on the graph, quadrant two. This is where the majority of our organizing work has grown from. For example, city of Decatur residents have high proximity, sharing the close physical space of one town.

A group of these residents who also share high affinity – values of equity and goals of clean energy for all – meet together regularly to strengthen relationships with each other, and ultimately organize to help push Decatur towards adopting 100% clean energy plans.

This is the essence of grassroots level change and our deep belief in relationship building and local power.

It's likely starting to be clear (if you haven't already felt the strain yourselves!) the extent to which this new physically distanced world has shaken our core and demanded a surge of creativity in our approach to this work.

We're working from far lower proximity – in short, we've moved quadrants!

Now, while this is shaking our foundations, it's also presented some incredible opportunities in terms of accessibility. We're learning to adapt to this new reality, and plan for a more coordinated future with more people at the table.

We hope you all will join us in quadrant four, as we continue to invest in each other and in the future we see for the world. Yes, we want you to join us in taking action. And we want that work to be born from relationships, driven by mutual understanding, community connections, and a deep commitment to the collective.

So we hope you'll consider picking up some new opportunities to take action with us. But first, let's get to know each other a little more. Fill out the form in the purple box below and tell us about yourself!

We've got long-time leaders ready to chat with you, learn about the communities you identify with and help strengthen the connections between all of our passions, experiences, skills, and communities. We're more powerful together, join us.

**GET INVOLVED!**

Looking for a place to start?

New volunteers should go to [bit.ly/new-volunteer-form](https://bit.ly/new-volunteer-form) and tell us a little about yourself. We'll be in touch soon after you fill it out and help find you ways to get involved!

Keep an eye out for purple boxes like this one throughout this issue to find other ways to get involved!



**VOLUNTEERS**

# Congrats to our Volunteer of the Year award winners!

*The Georgia Chapter recognized its outstanding volunteer leaders for 2020 during a virtual End of the Year celebration. The honorees were:*

**Scott Presson** received the Exceptional Dedication Award for his commitment to our work, particularly the leadership shown on our Ready For 100 Campaigns around Georgia. He's known to be

thoughtful, engaged, and always willing to step up.

**Lee Graham, Laura and Sam Breyfogle, and Larry "Larr" Komp** all received the Exceptional Leadership Award.

Lee has gone above and beyond to help the Centennial Group stay connected during the pandemic,

learning new systems and mastering new tools to ensure the group's work can continue uninterrupted.

Laura and Sam were recognized for their work making connections both within the LaGrange Group and outside it. Laura has been instrumental in bringing in new folks to the group, and Sam has taken a

**CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**

leadership role in planning events, including a climate march in late 2019 and a Green New Deal forum with the Sunrise Movement.

Larr has been a leader in the Savannah River Group for years. He's on the group's executive committee, serves as an outings leader, and became a certified Adopt-a-Stream volunteer in 2013. An avid kayaker, Larr was known to lead four to five paddling trips around Augusta each year during the pre-COVID days and he's itching to lead another outing soon.

**Linda Bell** and **Tejas Kotak** both received the Exceptional Activism Award.

Linda was a force of nature in 2020. Vice-chair of the Centennial Group, Linda lead the efforts to interview and screen candidates for local offices and was a big contributor to the Chapter's Political Committee. She was also a frequent volunteer during our textbanking outreach last year.

Tejas is the chair of our R.A.I.L. Committee and a tireless advocate for transit expansion. He constantly impresses with his knowledge, insight, and dedication, and his skillful ability to help other volunteers understand complex bureaucracy is second to none.

**Melissa Mauldin**, **Natasha Dorr-Kapczynski**, and **Jorge Granados** were all honored with the Youth Leader of the Year Award.

Melissa led the youth-organizing arm of the Decatur Ready For 100 Campaign and helped get her fellow high school students interested in the Decatur Strategic Planning Process.

Natasha was also recognized for



In years past, we would get together for a Holiday Party and honor our volunteers over food and drink. This year, we celebrated separately (but together) over Zoom.

contributions to the Ready for 100 Campaign, but her work centered on Smyrna. While in her first year of college, she's been a strong and persistent leader on environmental issues in her hometown.

Jorge stepped into multiple leadership roles this year, both official and unofficial. He joined the Executive Committee of the Greater Gwinnett Group and the Georgia Chapter's Political Committee, and has become one of our most dedicated and passionate volunteers.

**Bettye Harris** and **Stacy Shelton** received the Volunteer of the Year Award.

If you've done any volunteering with the Georgia Chapter, you know Bettye. Many of her fellow volunteers marvel at the amount of time she dedicates to the Sierra Club, attending multiple meetings each week covering a wide array of topics.

Not to mention the fact that she's known to call her fellow Sierrans out of the blue just to check up on them.

Stacy was recognized for diving head first into her role on the Chapter's Executive Committee. She brought a fresh perspective to our work, and her honesty and dedication have been served as examples for others to follow.

The Chapter also extended a special thanks to several volunteers:

- **Mark Woodall** and **Seth Gunning** for their years of service on the Chapter's Executive Committee. Their decision to step off our ExCom paves the way for new leaders to be involved in our work.
- **Linda McBurney** for laying the groundwork for the Georgia Sierran to transition to digital.
- Outgoing state Rep. **Bob Trammel** for his six years of service in the Georgia House as an environmental champion.

The Sierra Club Georgia Chapter runs on volunteers. We would not be successful without the hours of time these generous folks dedicate to our shared cause. We cannot thank you enough for what you do.

# Is there toxic coal ash near you? Tell the EPD to clean it up!

**BY STEPHEN STETSON**, SENIOR CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVE, BEYOND COAL CAMPAIGN

In our last issue, we explained the differences between safely excavating a coal ash pit and “capping in place.” This quarter, we are asking you to use that knowledge to advocate!

Full excavation of a toxic ash basin is the only safe option to deal with coal ash contamination; “capping in place” carries the risk of continued water pollution with toxic chemicals and heavy metals like arsenic, mercury, and chromium.

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division is accepting comments for coal ash permits throughout 2021 – see the table at right for specific permits and dates. Sign up at the link below to find out when the public comment periods open up and how to send your comments in. We need as many people as possible to raise their voice on this important subject!

Sign up for coal ash updates at [sc.org/ga-coal-ash](https://sc.org/ga-coal-ash).



COAL PLANT & ASH POND	COUNTY & NEARBY TOWN	EXPECTED PERMIT RELEASE
Hammond Ash Pond 3	Floyd Co. (Rome)	Mid-February
Bowen Ash Pond 1	Bartow Co. (Cartersville)	Q1 2021
Arkwright Ash Pond 3	Bibb Co. (Macon)	Q1 2021
Yates Ash Ponds 1, 2	Coweta Co. (Newnan)	Q1 2021
Wansley Ash Pond 1	Heard Co. (Carrollton)	Q2 2021
McDonough Ash Pond 1	Cobb Co. (Smyrna)	Q2 2021
Mitchell Ash Ponds A, 1, 2	Dougherty Co (Albany)	Q2 2021
Arkwright Ash Pond 1	Bibb Co. (Macon)	Q2 2021
Scherer Ash Pond 1	Monroe Co. (Juliette, Macon)	Q2 2021
McDonough Ash Ponds 2, 3, 4	Cobb Co. (Smyrna)	Q3 2021

## RATE CASE APPEAL UPDATE

You may remember that in 2019, the Sierra Club argued against Georgia Power’s proposed rate increase. The Georgia Public Service Commission sided with Georgia Power, and as a result, all of the utility’s customers will see their monthly base rate for electricity go up starting this year. Another aspect of that “rate case” was Georgia Power’s request to charge its customers to clean up the coal ash it has generated over several decades. Those coal ash charges have already been appearing on ratepayers’ bills.

On Nov. 23, Sierra Club attorneys appeared in Fulton County Superior Court to argue that Georgia Power should not be allowed to charge its customers for the costs of coal ash cleanup – at least not as the proposals currently stand. While cleaning up coal ash is absolutely critical, we argued before Judge Shukura Millender that Georgia Power should not be handed a blank check paid for by ratepayers but signed by the Georgia Public Service Commission, especially not for the utility’s existing vague cleanup plans.

Although we did not prevail at the trial level, we have already filed an appeal and look forward to a hearing on the merits in spring of 2021. The current battle involves the first \$550 million out of an anticipated \$7.5 billion in coal ash cleanup costs.

## GET INVOLVED!

Go to [sc.org/ga-coal-ash](https://sc.org/ga-coal-ash) and sign up, and we’ll let you know when the public comment periods for coal ash pond cleanups open.

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMITTEE**

# Let's get Ready for 100!

**BY JILLIAN ELLER**, CONSERVATION ORGANIZER,  
SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER

Our future for clean energy is bright, and 2021 has shining potential for progress towards shifting Georgia to 100% clean, renewable energy. The outcomes of the 2020 political season are favorable locally for our goals, and as the Georgia Legislature's 2021 session begins, we are watching to see what political will exists at the state level.

If you're interested in working with us, join us for a meeting of our Clean Energy Committee. We meet virtually on the third Wednesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 PM. The group is a collaboration between our Ready for 100 and Beyond Coal campaigns, as well as other partners across the state. Find the link to RSVP for our meetings on the Georgia Chapter's online calendar ([sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar](https://sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar)).

What is the Ready for 100 Campaign, you might ask? We are a distributed campaign that seeks a just transition to clean energy by 2035, and this work is happening nationwide. More 170 U.S. cities and counties have made a commitment to transitioning to 100% clean energy, as well as eight states.

Locations in Georgia who have made 100% clean energy commitments include Atlanta, Athens-Clarke County, Augusta-Richmond County, Clarkston, and Savannah. We're looking for volunteers to help with our efforts statewide and on local teams in these areas. By signing onto the Ready for 100 campaign, you're joining a movement. Our window of time for action is short, but we are building momentum and confident in our goals.

Interested in joining one of our Ready For 100 Teams in Atlanta, Decatur, Augusta, Savannah, Athens-Clarke County, Clarkston, or Smyrna? Email Conservation Organizer Jillian Eller at [jillian.eller@sierraclub.org](mailto:jillian.eller@sierraclub.org).

We're excited to announce a new toolkit that organizers can use to start a new campaign in your community! Go to [sierraclub.org/Ready-For-100-Toolkit](https://sierraclub.org/Ready-For-100-Toolkit) to sign the campaign principles and get started!

We are especially interested in supporting teams in metro Atlanta including Fulton, Dekalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett counties. Interested in getting involved and getting trained on the new toolkit? Email Ready For 100 Team Leader Scott Presson at [spress51@gmail.com](mailto:spress51@gmail.com).

In addition to working with cities and counties to transition to clean energy, our committee is also promoting efficiency improvements in existing buildings, especially for those living in areas with high energy burden. Georgia Power is preparing to conduct a pilot program promoting energy efficiency in Atlanta and Athens starting with 250 homes/apartments in each city. However, the pilot is currently on hold due to COVID restrictions. Watch this space or attend one of our monthly meetings for updates on this program.

## GET INVOLVED!

Go to [sierraclub.org/Ready-For-100-Toolkit](https://sierraclub.org/Ready-For-100-Toolkit) to learn more about the RF100 campaign and how you can bring it to your community.

Email Jillian Eller ([jillian.eller@sierraclub.org](mailto:jillian.eller@sierraclub.org)) and Scott Presson ([spress51@gmail.com](mailto:spress51@gmail.com)) to join our Ready For 100 teams.

**LEGISLATIVE**

# Our 2021 legislative preview

**BY MARK WOODALL**, CHAIR, LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

The Georgia General Assembly began its 2021 session on Monday, January 11, 2021. Unfortunately, the Legislature will be operating under the new normal coronavirus restrictions with very limited

in-person access to legislators and committee meetings. Volunteer lobbyists will need to participate virtually and by phone as they did in June when the 2020 session concluded. The 2021 in-person Capitol Conservation Day has been cancelled. Virtual options are being considered.

Long-time state Rep. Alan Powell (R-Hartwell) told the AJC that the June session was "a pitiful state of

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affairs." Powell said: "I believe in openness in the legislative process and that means citizens being able to lobby us. I ain't seen any individual citizens. The public should be here while we're dealing with their business." Chairman Powell is correct, but we must do the best we can under difficult circumstances.

After fixing the loophole that made it cheaper to store toxic coal ash in landfills than it costs to store household garbage in the 2020 session, the Sierra Club and Georgia Water Coalition will be working once again to get more than 40 million tons of Georgia Power's coal ash out of contact with the groundwater.

Current Georgia Power plans are to excavate less than half of the 90 million tons of coal ash and recycle it or put it in lined landfills. Unfortunately, Georgia Power proposes to close in place coal ash pits at Plant Hammond near Rome, Plant Bowen near Cartersville, Plant Wansley south of Newnan, Plant McDonough in Smyrna, and Plant Scherer at Juliette. Georgia EPD likely will be issuing permits for this ill-advised activity starting in the first quarter of 2021. This reckless behavior must be corrected by the Georgia Legislature.

The voters of Georgia passed Constitutional Amendment One, Honesty in Trust Funds, in 2020 with 82% voting in favor. So in 2021, a Georgia Water Coalition priority is convincing the Legislature to dedicate the certain fees to the hazardous waste and solid waste trust funds. A supermajority vote of the Georgia House and Senate is needed to dedicate for 10 years the tire disposal, solid waste disposal, and hazardous waste fees. We need to get the cleanups we pay for with these various fees.

Stopping attacks on current protections, commonly called rollbacks, will once again be a priority. The Georgia Farm Bureau Insurance Company says they will return with another attack on nuisance law. In 2019, HB 545 started out exactly the same as a bill in North Carolina pushed by pork producers that took away the rights of people living near the massive open lagoons of hog manure to protect their homes. This is a huge environmental justice issue as many communities of color are affected by the terrible odors, polluted well water, flies, and other nuisances that come with these massive operations.

Nuisance law is the original environmental law. The current four year statute of limitations is needed as most people waste two or three years trying to get the Georgia EPD or U.S. EPA to do something about the pollution. It takes some time before people realize their only recourse is nuisance law.

## GET INVOLVED!

Taking action at the Georgia Gold Dome may evoke images of in-person lobbying and meetings with legislators, but did you know volunteers have made a decisive difference through virtual methods before the pandemic?

While COVID-19 has made in-person lobbying uncertain, you can still make a difference from your home in the 2021 Legislative Session through the newly relaunched Legislative Liaisons (LL) volunteer program!

By joining the program, you will be given the opportunity to attend policy briefings on critical issues, to receive action alerts, and to join a community of fellow like-minded environmental advocates. The Georgia Sierra Club staff will train you on how to make effective calls, texts, and emails to engage and persuade legislators to serve on the environment's behalf.

This program is flexible, and volunteers can self-determine time commitments. On average, we recommend dedicating 1-3 hours per week during the Legislative Session, which is anticipated to run during January through April (subject to change due to the pandemic).

You can join the Legislative Liaisons program by filling out the virtual form at [addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/2021-georgia-chapter-legislative-liaisons](https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/2021-georgia-chapter-legislative-liaisons).

More than ever, the future of our lands, drinking water, air, transit, and our climate resides in your hands. Let the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter guide you through how to unlock your potential to be an environmental champion at the State Capitol!

For more information, please contact Angela Jiang at [angela.jiang@sierraclub.org](mailto:angela.jiang@sierraclub.org).

Pushing for new state laws that would supersede city or county regulations, also known as preemption, is a favorite tactic of the big money corporate interests. We will need to guard against proposals by home-builders, realtors, and PVC makers to preempt local design control of single family homes. Speaking of plastic, we have to be on guard for chemical manufacturers seeking to preempt local control over single

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use plastic bags and other packaging. Many of these preemption bills have been defeated in the past on the House floor, but we must remain on guard.

A proposed 2020 rollback, HB 906 by Rep. Darlene Taylor, was a bill to allow the sale of up to 15 acres of Heritage Trust land to private entities. The state needs funding for repairs to historic homes, but selling them off is not acceptable.

The Gullah-Geechee community, all the historical preservation groups, and former President Jimmy Carter all opposed this measure. Discussions of a better approach have been ongoing.

The Sierra Club recognizes that full participation in democracy is critical to environmental protection. So we will also need to watch for rollbacks of voting rights, absentee ballot process, right to peacefully protest, and other rights of a free people. Volunteer participation is critical to our legislative efforts, and some lawmakers are already publicly calling for legislation that would make it more difficult to vote.

Please contact your state lawmakers and tell them about the environmental issues important to you. Not sure how to do that? Join our legislative liaisons team and we'll help you learn how. Learn more and sign up at [sierraclub.org/georgia/legislative](https://sierraclub.org/georgia/legislative).



**POLITICAL COMMITTEE**

# Recapping the 2020 elections

**BY EDDIE EHLERT, CHAIR, POLITICAL COMMITTEE**

Someday I want to write this and say “Everybody we supported was elected and what a great job we did,” ... but that isn’t quite the 2020 story.

While everybody was figuring out how to “campaign online,” the electorate was presented with the finest slate of environmental candidates in quite a while. For many of the recent years, the biggest problem was that unchallenged incumbents could just sit back and be reelected, then carry on with ever more terrible legislation. This year, good people stepped up to the challenge.

This field of good people gave us one presidential candidate, two U.S. Senate candidates, four U.S. House candidates, 13 State Senate candidates, 35 State House candidates, two PSC candidates, two Cobb County Commission candidates, one DeKalb County Commission candidate, and three Gwinnett County Commission candidates who earned endorsement from the Sierra Club.

For the first time in my memory, **ALL THE FEDERAL CANDIDATES WON**. When President Biden takes office, he will be supported by two Georgia Senators and four Georgia Congresspeople carrying our endorsement. All of them have a history of commitment to environmental justice. It will take a while to undo the train wreck of the last four years (and the 10 plus before that) but at least Georgia will move from the “problem” column to the one titled “SOLUTIONS”.

The results of the state Senate and House were a net positive but not the landslide we had hoped for. So

many really good candidates who deserve a round of applause for well-run campaigns in often unfriendly districts came up short. I truly hope most of those who came up short are ready to dive back in come 2022.

We only lost one incumbent, although he was one we really needed. Former Rep. Bob Trammell was victim of the most expensive State House opposition in Georgia History. I hope he returns to fight the good fight.

Otherwise, all our House and Senate incumbents will be back. Long time Environmental Champion, Senator Elena Parent (SD42), is the new Senate Democratic Caucus Chair. Representative Shea Roberts won in her second attempt at House District 52 (Sandy Springs), and Representative Rebecca Mitchell will be adding thoughtful representation to House District 106 (eastern Gwinnett County).

Speaking of Gwinnett County, we have a new County Commission Chair, Nicole Love Hendrickson, as well as new District 1 Commissioner Kirkland Cardin.

DeKalb County adds former Georgia Sierra Club Executive Director Ted Terry as Super District 6 Commissioner.

Not to forget Cobb County, Lisa Cupid is elevated to Cobb Commission Chair. Jerica Richards will be serving District 2. This gives the Cobb County Commission a full slate of strong women!

Lastly, the PSC remains out of our grasp. I don’t know how a runoff election with three candidates can have two Senate candidates winning and the PSC candidate still losing. Our hats off to Daniel Blackman for remaining strong to the end. It is still disheartening

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that the PSC has so much control over energy and environmental policy in this state while so many Georgians seem to be unaware or unconcerned.

Thus the longest, oddest, often ugliest election for our state and our nation that most of us care to remember comes to an end. We can all hope that the new administrations in all of these various levels of

government will work to address the needs of their constituents and maintain a strong respect for the goals of the Sierra Club. The events in Washington, DC, in the weeks leading up to President Biden's inauguration demonstrates how hard it can be to get the government we are seeking. Now it is up to us to keep the focus on ensuring it is the government we all deserve!



**REGIONAL ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVABILITY (R.A.I.L.) COMMITTEE**

## Looking back on 2020, opportunities abound in 2021

BY TEJAS KOTAK, CHAIR, R.A.I.L. COMMITTEE

### GWINNETT & COBB

November's election left us in states of both dismay and optimism. We were so sure the referendum in Gwinnett would pass easily, but instead it lost by just over 1,000 votes. This shows us that we need to put more work into the county on a continual basis, and that the county is right on the cusp of transit support. Our victory there is delayed, but so very close at hand.

Both Gwinnett and Cobb County have majority pro-transit Board of Commissioners now, and we are actively engaging with them on how to improve current service in the near-term as we gear up for the next referendum. There are a lot of opportunities to enhance current bus service within those counties, add new service, and increase connections to the MARTA system.

### TRANSIT PLANNING EFFORTS

Henry and Forsyth counties are kicking off transit planning work this year in conjunction with the ATL Authority. They both currently have limited in-county service along with Xpress commuter busses that take workers to and from Downtown Atlanta during weekdays.

These planning efforts could really push the

counties towards improving their bus service and potentially planning for commuter rail one day.

### OUTREACH TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

As this year's General Assembly session kicks off, there will be opportunities to directly work with your state representatives. We all have two: A representative to the Georgia House of Representatives and one to the Georgia Senate. Many of our issues will require a majority of pro-transit legislators under the Gold Dome, and we do not have that right now.

We can still start laying the groundwork this year, though. Sierra Club has several long-term goals that our members can begin talking about with their legislators: Opening up the gas tax to transit funding, creating dedicated state funding for the more than 100 transit operators in our state, and having state support for commuter and passenger rail programs.

These are all goals that will improve our climate, air quality, and ability to connect to jobs, destinations, and each other. We need to start the work now to ensure a brighter future. Show the state government that transit and transportation options have large support across Georgia.

Please contact Tejas Kotak at [tkotak013@gmail.com](mailto:tkotak013@gmail.com) if you are interested in being involved in any or all of these efforts. This year has nothing but opportunities for us, and we have to work towards them together.

**GET INVOLVED!**  
Contact R.A.I.L. Committee chair Tejas Kotak at [tkotak013@gmail.com](mailto:tkotak013@gmail.com) if you want to get involved in our transit work.

## WILDLANDS & WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

# Welcome our new co-chair: Tricia Embry!

BY **JILLIAN ELLER**, CONSERVATION ORGANIZER,  
SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER

Our Wildlands and Wildlife Committee is a prime place for those interested in conservation to dig in! Get involved in forest activism, wetlands protection, wildlife advocacy, and so much more! On the second Monday of each month, the Wildlands and Wildlife Committee meets virtually starting at 6:30 PM ET. This is a great place to hear about what the Committee is currently up to. All meetings can be found on the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter's calendar, located at [sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar).

Coming into the new year, we are excited to transition the committee to be led by co-chairs. Larry Winslett is joined by Tricia Embry, a Chapter volunteer for the past 3.5 years. By expanding our leadership, we are able to take on new issues like the Wonders of

Wetland project. We also continue to monitor proposed U.S. Forest Service projects in Georgia and work to hold the agency accountable when necessary. Are you interested in working on issues like this? Email Larry ([winfog@windstream.net](mailto:winfog@windstream.net)) and Tricia ([triciathe-writer@gmail.com](mailto:triciathe-writer@gmail.com)) to learn more about how you can get involved!

We are specifically looking for volunteers to get involved with capacity building for our Committee. This includes supporting our digital presence, communications like crafting these Sierran articles, and support managing our Google groups. Are you interested in developing any of these skills? Reach out to Jillian ([jillian.eller@sierraclub.org](mailto:jillian.eller@sierraclub.org)) to learn more!

## GET INVOLVED!

RSVP for our next Wildlands & Wildlife Committee meeting at [sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/calendar).

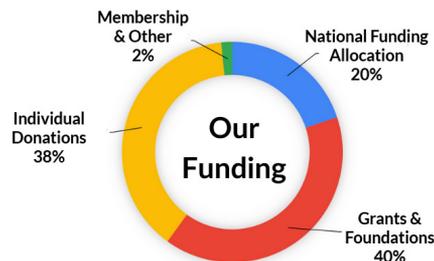
Want to volunteer for the committee and help build it up? Contact [jillian.eller@sierraclub.org](mailto:jillian.eller@sierraclub.org).

## Make a local impact by giving to the Georgia Chapter!

Did you know **less than 5%** of your annual membership dues goes back to the Georgia Chapter?

When you donate directly to the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter, 100% of your gift stays in Georgia and helps support our local conservation programs.

**38% of our income comes from individual donors.** We are expecting a decline in these donations this year due to COVID-19. If you are able to give, we hope you'll consider making a gift.



## Make a gift the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter!

Enclosed is my gift to the Sierra Club  
Georgia Chapter:  
\$250\_\_ \$100\_\_ \$50\_\_ Other:\$\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to  
"Sierra Club Georgia Chapter"

Mail to:  
743 E College Ave, Suite B  
Decatur, GA 30030

Give online: [www.sierraclub.org/georgia/give](http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/give)

To pay by credit card, please fill out this form

MasterCard Visa Discover Amex

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# WINTER 2020 GROUP NEWS

## CENTENNIAL GROUP

SERVING COBB, CHEROKEE & NORTH FULTON

**BY BETTYE HARRIS**, CENTENNIAL GROUP DELEGATE TO CHAPTER EXCOM, & **LYNN WALSTON**, CHAIR, CENTENNIAL GROUP

### HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU!

We wish health, safety, and happiness for you, family & friends as we begin 2021. Thank you for your patience and support in 2020 as we navigated challenges from COVID-19; quarantine restrictions and shutdowns; and our historic campaign/election season. Thank you also for looking out for each other and our community. We make a great team! We're happy to have also "teamed up" with other groups and chapter members; chapter staff; and community allies.

We look forward to being together when it's safe again, and continuing work on our priority issues (including transit; energy/equity/outreach; parks/greenspace; expanding our ethnic & youth membership; and recruiting additional issue & outing leaders). We will adopt any and all remote tools and creative methods to continue our work. Please let us know ([bettyeharris@gmail.com](mailto:bettyeharris@gmail.com)) or ([lynnwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com)) more about your special interests or any topics you would like to hear more about or work on. Thank you!

### END-OF-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome to our two recently-elected Centennial Group ExCom members: Linda Bell (re-elected incumbent) and Dr. Deidre Meiggs (newly elected). Congrats and thanks to you both; and thank you to third candidate Edouard Kamdem for running and agreeing to help us with other ExCom projects. Continuing ExCom members are Jenny Bartee, Todd Daniel, and Lynn Walston. A special thank you to outgoing ExCom member, Andrea Searles, who just completed two 2-year ExCom terms, and has been an important part of our team.

We had no traditional Holiday Potluck Party & Auction this year at the Avery Gallery ([averygallery.com](http://averygallery.com)), and we missed it. But we had a good turnout at our Virtual Centennial Group End-of-Year Volunteer Appreciation via Zoom, on December 3rd, 2020. Thanks to all who could join us for a fun gathering, and thanks for all you do.

### OTHER NOTABLE 4TH QUARTER EVENTS:

- **Oct 1st** – Centennial Group Meeting: "GOALS TO VICTORY IN 2020" with GA Chapter Organizer Angela Jiang who led our discussion on maximizing voter turnout & safety; flipping the Senate; electing and protecting environmental champions. Via Zoom.
- **Oct 20th** - Metro Atlanta Group + Centennial Group (co-host): Candidate forum with Cobb &

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE



Our last pre-quarantine Centennial Group outing in February 2020 at the Kendeda Building at GA Tech.

Fulton Endorsed Candidates (for state House and Senate). Led by Jeff Schoenberg, Nina Dutton, Linda Bell. Via Zoom.

- **Nov 5th** - Centennial Group Meeting: "Help prevent cancerous chemical air emissions and dangerous coal ash in our area." Speakers were Janet Rau of "Stop Sterigenics Now" and Neil Sardana, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Organizer. Via Zoom.
- **Nov 15th/Nov 28th** - Joined Ossoff-Warnock-Blackman Rally in Marietta; and assisted Cobb NAACP at Voter Registration and GOTV tabling event.

### GETTING OUTSIDE!

Throughout the summer and fall, a number of our outing enthusiasts have taken advantage of early mornings, good weather, and smart pandemic hiking advice to plan private, small group, physically distanced, masked, unofficial hikes with friends and family. Lee Graham ([leegrah3@gmail.com](mailto:leegrah3@gmail.com)) has advice

and suggestions on areas you might want to check out during nice-weather winter days. Be safe!

**NOTE: Centennial Group meetings for Jan-Mar 2021 are still being confirmed.** Please check our website, Facebook and Meetup pages and our E-Newsletters for updates and announcements. Thank you.

## GET INVOLVED!

Contact Centennial Group leaders Lynn Walston ([lynnwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com)) and Bettye Harris ([bettyeharris@gmail.com](mailto:bettyeharris@gmail.com)) to get more involved in this group.

Check out the group's website ([sierraclub.org/georgia/centennial](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/centennial)), Facebook page ([facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club](https://www.facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club)), and MeetUp pages ([meetup.com/Georgia-Sierra-Club](https://www.meetup.com/Georgia-Sierra-Club)) for more information.

### GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

SERVING GWINNETT COUNTY

**BY DAN FRIEDMAN, CHAIR,**  
GREATER GWINNETT GROUP

I hope everyone had safe and healthy holidays. Last year was unlike any in our lifetimes. We saw COVID-19 kill hundreds of thousands of people, an often ugly election season, millions of people losing their jobs, families and children across the U.S. struggling with hunger and housing issues, and unrest in our cities as protestors march for racial justice.

We hope that 2021 is a much better year (can it get worse?). But, hope alone will not improve the situation; what is required is action. Democrats Jon Ossoff and Rev. Raphael Warnock have been declared winners in their runoff elections for the U.S. Senate, but it appears Daniel Blackman has lost his bid for a seat on the Georgia Public Service Commission.

As Sierrans, we are activists. Our motto is "Explore, Enjoy, Protect." Our mandate is to explore the outdoors, whether it is mountains, streams, oceans, or cities, and we encourage folks to get outside, especially locally. Get involved and help protect the outdoors.

We work at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure the air and water are clean, that lands are available for the enjoyment of all, and clean inexpensive energy can be enjoyed by all Gwinnett citizens.

Our stream monitoring program, led by Michael Hallen, monitors the health of Suwanee Creek. Enjoy the sun and the air and learn how to protect our waters. Get involved.

We are working with local governments to plan for a clean energy future. Scott Presson leads our Ready For 100 campaign to turn away from fossil fuels to clean energy that increases jobs, incomes, and health. Get involved.

Jorge Granados leads our political efforts to engage our legislators and county leadership. Making your voice heard by your elected officials is a hallmark of a functioning democracy. Get involved.

Can't decide? Attend our monthly meetings where our presenters discuss a different issue every month. January is our "State of Sierra Club" discussion:

**CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**

where we have been and where we are going. February will feature information about what is happening at the Georgia Legislature. March's meeting will center around a discussion of Georgia Power and what changes the new CEO may bring. Each month will have a different speaker and topic. Get involved.

While these can be scary times, these are also exciting times. We, individually and together, will make a difference. Don't sit on the sidelines: get involved.

**GET INVOLVED!**  
Check out the group's website ([sierraclub.org/georgia/Gwinnett](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/Gwinnett)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/Gwinnett-Sierra-Club-109645614080930](https://facebook.com/Gwinnett-Sierra-Club-109645614080930)) for more information.

**LAGRANGE GROUP**

SERVING THE LAGRANGE AREA

**BY SAM BREYFOGLE**, OUTINGS CHAIR, LAGRANGE GROUP

The LaGrange Sierra Group remained active during the last couple of months. Members text and phone banked for Sierra Club endorsed candidates leading into the election. Others participated in the "Get out the Vote" Georgia Postcard Project and served in other volunteer capacities around the election.

We continued maintenance on our pollinator garden, which has been officially recognized as a Monarch Waystation. A newly installed sign was posted to highlight our garden efforts and to draw attention to our educational signage there. We sponsored a fundraiser to promote Sierra Club at a recreational amenity on our local public multi-use trail system.

We'd like to extend our thanks to outgoing executive committee members Morton Reed and Coral Douglas. Thank you for your interest and help. We would also like to welcome our newest ExCom members, Collie Graddick and Brian Hunter. We look

forward to your energy and ideas.

Thanks also to our local representatives in government and especially outgoing Georgia House Minority Leader Bob Trammell. His efforts at promoting environmental legislation in Georgia will be missed.

We look forward to planned 2021 efforts, which will undoubtedly include more Zoom meetings. We'll work to promote greater involvement of our ever more diverse and young membership in hopes that we'll be more effective in improving our healthy and sustainable community. And we'll look forward to a return to outdoor outing activities when it is safe to do so.

**GET INVOLVED!**  
Check out the group's website ([sierraclub.org/georgia/lagrange](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/lagrange)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/300840033370271](https://facebook.com/groups/300840033370271)) for more information.

**METRO ATLANTA GROUP**

SERVING ATLANTA, DEKALB & SOUTH FULTON

**BY NINA DUTTON**, CHAIR, METRO ATLANTA GROUP

**GROUP MEETINGS**

All of our group meetings since March 2020 have been conducted online, with the option to call in on a phone line or participate from a computer or smartphone. With all meetings held remotely, it has become easier this year for many Sierra Club

community members across the metro area and beyond to take part, when the commute to our typical meeting location might have been prohibitive. Looking ahead to a time when we may meet again in a lively, crowded room, we intend to continue offering an online option in the future in order to carry forward this type of accessibility. And whether you're new to the Sierra Club Georgia Chapter this year or if you've been a member for years, you're invited to our next group meeting!

At our meeting on Sept. 8, Stacy Shelton — at the time an associate attorney with Southern

Environmental Law Center (SELC) — spoke with our group about several important environmental issues in our state, some of the approaches SELC is using in cases regarding these issues, and how SELC works with Sierra Club and other organizations toward our common goal of protecting our environment. The Georgia Chapter has worked with the SELC on issues like forest protection, the Okefenokee Swamp, and more.

On Oct. 20, in collaboration with Centennial Group, we co-hosted a meeting featuring several Georgia Sierra Club-endorsed candidates running for state House and Senate seats, including Rep. Mary Frances Williams (HD-37), Shea Roberts (HD-52), Rep. Erick Allen (HD-40), Rep. Josh McLaurin (HD-51), Connie Di Cicco (HD-44), Rep. Angelika Kausche (HD-50), and Sen. Sally Harrell (SD-40). Chapter Chair Jeff Schoenberg served as moderator for the discussion, which touched upon coal ash, utilities, air pollution, transportation, the need to regulate corporations so that they do not externalize (i.e. subject the public to) the environmental costs of their work, and more. We encouraged everyone at the meeting to make their plans to vote and help others get informed about the upcoming elections.

For our Nov. 10 meeting, WABE reporter Molly Samuel brought us an engaging look into her work covering the climate crisis, energy, water, environmental justice, and Georgia's natural heritage. We discussed some of her recent stories and took a glimpse behind the scenes at the work that went into reporting them.

In December, we did not hold a group meeting. Instead, we encouraged members and volunteers to take action for the important but still often overlooked Jan. 5 runoff race for the Public Service Commission (PSC) district 4 seat. With the PSC tasked with regulating electric, gas, and telecommunications utilities, much was at stake with this runoff with regard to environmental and economic justice. With the 2020 election over, we must remember to monitor the PSC and hold them accountable for the decisions they make. Unfortunately, environmental champion Daniel Blackman appears to have lost his race for a seat on the PSC, but we still plan to keep up our efforts lobbying the commission.

Please contact group chair Nina Dutton if you would like a link to recordings of the meetings.

### STONE MOUNTAIN PARK ORGANIZING OPPORTUNITY

Did you know that the state authority tasked with protecting Stone Mountain Park as a recreation area is also required to maintain it as a Confederate memorial? Recently, community members and local organizations

formed the Stone Mountain Action Coalition ([stonemountainaction.org](http://stonemountainaction.org)) to work on transforming Stone Mountain Park into an inclusive and welcoming space for all.

The aims expressed by the coalition align with Sierra Club's new position on Confederate & colonizer monuments, which states, in part: "Public spaces — especially our parks, public lands, and schools — are meant to be enjoyed by all, and the glorification of white supremacists through these monuments and markers is demeaning and insulting to those of us who continue to suffer at the hands of brutality, racism and discrimination. As such, the Sierra Club supports the removal of these statues and monuments from all public lands and spaces."

Do you love to hike in Stone Mountain Park? Do you have fond memories of going to the laser show when you were growing up? Or did you bike to the park for the first time this year? If the aims of the coalition resonate with you, and especially if you feel a personal connection to the park, please let us know if you would like to get involved.

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Want to pitch in by helping out at meetings, planning events or actions, or keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Please email our chair, Nina Dutton, at [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com).

### STAY UP TO DATE

If you don't get our monthly meeting announcements but would like to, sign up for email updates through the Georgia Chapter website ([sierraclub.org/georgia](http://sierraclub.org/georgia)) and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zip code.

The Metro Atlanta Group generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic. Then, we discuss and present info on how to take action on important issues. Some months we do not hold a regular meeting, so please check the Chapter calendar, our webpage, and our Facebook page for updates.

## GET INVOLVED!

Interested in working with a coalition that aims to remove Confederate monuments from Stone Mountain Park? Contact Nina Dutton ([nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com))

Check out the group's website ([sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/SierraClubATL](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubATL)) for more information.

## SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP

SERVING AUGUSTA & SURROUNDING AREAS

**BY LINDA MCBURNEY, CO-CHAIR, SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP**

Two of SRG's campaigns now have chairs.

The Ready for 100 (RF100) Augusta chair is Greg Sutherland. Greg has been a Sierra Club member for 35+ years and is SRG's Vice-Chair. Because of his interest in and support of clean energy, he invested in solar seven years ago and both he and his wife have an electric car.

Also, Greg's belief in climate change and social justice issues has led him down an activist path where he has participated in rallies and marches such as the Forward on Climate march in Washington, DC, the People's Climate March in NYC, the Atlanta Climate Rally and March, the Journey for Justice Across Georgia March, the MLK and Pride parades, and the Keystone XL pipeline protests in Houston where he and several others were arrested! Greg may be contacted by email at [greg30808@mac.com](mailto:greg30808@mac.com).

The Regional Action to Improve Livability (R.A.I.L.) Augusta chair is Christopher Hall. Prior to being appointed as chair, some of Chris's leadership roles have included Chair of the South Carolina Chapter,

Chair of the Aiken Group, and National Outings leader with the Hawaii Subcommittee.

Chris was also instrumental in bringing Ready for 100 to South Carolina through the Mayors for 100 Initiative, which led to Columbia's commitment to 100% clean energy. Chris may be contacted on his cell 803-640-5551 or email him at [ipaddle4fun@gmail.com](mailto:ipaddle4fun@gmail.com).

## GET INVOLVED!

To get involved in the Savannah River Group's RF100 Campaign, contact Greg Sutherland at [greg30808@mac.com](mailto:greg30808@mac.com).

To get involved in the Group's transit work, contact Christopher Hall at [ipaddle4fun@gmail.com](mailto:ipaddle4fun@gmail.com).

Check out the group's website ([sierraclub.org/georgia/Savannah-River](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/Savannah-River)) and Facebook page ([facebook.com/groups/241982449162866](https://facebook.com/groups/241982449162866)) for more information.

To RSVP for one of the group's upcoming meetings, go to [bit.ly/SRG-Meeting-RSVP](https://bit.ly/SRG-Meeting-RSVP).



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# SIERRA CLUB GEORGIA CHAPTER DIRECTORY

## LOCAL GROUP CONTACTS

### CENTENNIAL GROUP

Chair, Lynn Walston  
lynnwalston22@yahoo.com

Conservation Chair, Andrea Searles  
andreasearles@gmail.com

Outings Chair, Lee Graham  
leegrah3@gmail.com

### COASTAL GROUP

Chair, Vacant

Outings Chair, Steve Wagner  
sjwgnr@hotmail.com

Events Coordinator, Lilli Hutto  
medi8@mindspring.com

### GWINNETT GROUP

Chair, Dan Friedman  
dan3688@aol.com

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

Outings Chair, Vacant

### LAGRANGE GROUP

Co-Chair, Mary Lou Dabbs  
mldabbs05@gmail.com

Co-Chair, Eric Simpson  
elamar109@yahoo.com

Outings Chair, Laura Breyfogle  
breyfoglel@gmail.com

### METRO ATLANTA GROUP (MAG)

Chair, Nina Dutton  
niddutton@gmail.com

Conservation/Outings Chair, Max Brown  
maxhbrown@bellsouth.net

Political Chair, Eddie Ehlert  
edehlert@mindspring.com

Treasurer/Webmaster, Matthew Evans  
matthew.evans2012@yahoo.com

### SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP (SRG)

Co-Chair, Sam Booher  
sbooher@aol.com

Co-Chair, Linda McBurney  
msmcb@outlook.com

Conservation Chair, Frank Carl  
frankcarl@knology.net

Outings Chair, Cathy Black  
sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com

## REGIONAL CONTACTS

### Forsyth County

Jim Callison  
callisonjim@bellsouth.net

### Macon

Joseph Jackson III  
joseph.tjax@gmail.com

### North Georgia

Larry Winslett  
winfog@windstream.net

### Valdosta

Brian Day  
bjday@valdosta.edu

## ISSUE CAMPAIGNS & COMMITTEES

### Clean Energy Committee

Angela Jiang, [angela.jiang@sierraclub.org](mailto:angela.jiang@sierraclub.org)  
Neil Sardana, [neil.sardana@sierraclub.org](mailto:neil.sardana@sierraclub.org)

### Legislative Committee

Mark Woodall  
[woodallmark8@gmail.com](mailto:woodallmark8@gmail.com)

### Political Committee

Eddie Ehlert  
[edehlert@mindspring.com](mailto:edehlert@mindspring.com)

### Ready For 100 Team

Scott Presson  
[spress51@gmail.com](mailto:spress51@gmail.com)

### Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee

Tejas Kotak  
[tkotak013@gmail.com](mailto:tkotak013@gmail.com)

### Wildlands and Wildlife Committee

Larry Winslett, [winfog@windstream.net](mailto:winfog@windstream.net)  
Tricia Embry, [triciathewriter@gmail.com](mailto:triciathewriter@gmail.com)

### Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream

Ina Allison (Centennial)  
[iallison@hotmail.com](mailto:iallison@hotmail.com)

Michael Hallen (Gwinnett)

[michael\\_hallen@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_hallen@hotmail.com)

Frank Carl (SRG)  
[frankcarl@knology.net](mailto:frankcarl@knology.net)

Tim Nelken (SRG)  
[td.nelken@gmail.com](mailto:td.nelken@gmail.com)

For a complete listing of conservation committee chairs and issue leaders, please visit: [sierraclub.org/georgia/directory](http://sierraclub.org/georgia/directory).

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Chair

Jeff Schoenberg  
schoenbergjhe@gmail.com  
(770) 394-0639  
*At-Large Elected Member*

### At-Large Elected Member

Gustavo Arce  
gustavo.arce52@gmail.com

### At-Large Elected Member

Nancy Daves  
nancydaves0711@gmail.com  
(270) 461-1738

### At-Large Elected Member

Natasha Dyer  
dyernatasha@gmail.com

### At-Large Elected Member

Berneta Haynes  
berneta.haynes@gmail.com

### At-Large Elected Member

Tejas Kotak  
tkotak013@gmail.com

### At-Large Elected Member

Phyllis Richardson  
moreland.richardson@gmail.com

### Centennial Group Delegate

Bettye Harris  
bettyecharris@gmail.com  
(678) 463-7827

### Coastal Group Delegate

Vacant

### Gwinnett Group Delegate

Dan Friedman  
dan3688@gmail.com  
(404) 610-5770

### LaGrange Group Delegate

Mary Lou Dabbs  
mldabbs05@gmail.com  
(706) 402-0310

### Metro Atlanta Group Delegate

Rotating

### Savannah River Group Delegate

Linda McBurney  
msmcb@outlook.com  
(706) 631-1489

### Treasurer

Tom Neff  
tsneff2003@yahoo.com

## CHAPTER OFFICE

Sierra Club Georgia Chapter  
743 East College Avenue, Suite B  
Decatur, GA 30030  
(404) 607-1262

## CHAPTER STAFF

### Chapter Director

Jessica Morehead  
jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org

### Development Associate

Gina Webber  
gina.webber@sierraclub.org

### Communications Coordinator

Ricky Leroux  
ricky.leroux@sierraclub.org

### Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator

Tia Fay  
tia.fay@sierraclub.org

### Conservation Organizer

Angela Jiang  
angela.jiang@sierraclub.org

### Conservation Organizer

Jillian Eller  
jillian.eller@sierraclub.org

## NATIONAL STAFF

### Southeastern Campaign

Representative, Military Outdoors  
Lornett Vestal  
lornett.vestal@sierraclub.org

### Beyond Coal Organizer

Neil Sardana  
neil.sardana@sierraclub.org

## NATIONAL PROGRAM CONTACTS

### Inspiring Connections Outdoors

Terri Lyde  
lydeterri@bellsouth.net

## CHAPTER LEADERS & CHAIRS

### Legal Chair

William Tomlin  
wmltom@gmail.com

### Legislative Chair

Mark Woodall  
woodallmark8@gmail.com

### Political Chair

Eddie Ehler  
edehlert@mindspring.com

## 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

The Sierra Club Georgia Chapter's Executive Committee (ExCom) meets every other month. The meetings are being held virtually until further notice.

Georgia Chapter ExCom meetings are open to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

Meeting dates are subject to change, so email (address) to confirm the dates.

The Georgia Chapter ExCom's 2021 meetings are scheduled for:

- January 16 - Noon
- March 20 - Noon
- May 15 - Noon
- July 17 - Noon
- September 18 - Noon
- November 20 - Noon

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