



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Activism From A to Z

Special Feature: Pages 3 - 9



Water a Priority at Capitol *Page 10*



Transportation Update *Page 11*

IN THIS ISSUE

- From the Chapter Chair.....2
- Focus: Activism From A to Z.....3-9
- Conservation.....10-11
- Support Your Chapter.....12-13
- Membership.....14-15
- Outings.....16
- Group Reports.....18-21
- Contacts and Local Groups.....22-23

What Does Activism Mean to You?

By David Emory

As we kick off a new year, we decided to devote this issue of the Sierran to a topic that is at the core of the Sierra Club's being: activism. So it's only fitting that I'm writing this on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, just hours after taking part in the annual march down Atlanta's Auburn Avenue with a spirited group of fellow Sierrans. The MLK Day march is one of our state's great showcases of grassroots activism, bringing together thousands of Georgians from all walks of life to celebrate the accomplishments of the civil rights movement and recommit ourselves to fighting for continued progress.

And while the word "activism" may immediately conjure up images of boisterous street marches and rallies, it's important to remember the many other forms activism can take. Simply defined, activism refers to any effort intended to bring about social change – it can be knocking on doors, writing a letter to the editor, or just talking to friends and neighbors about the environmental challenges we face. In this issue, we've highlighted just a handful of stories from Sierra Club members about their own paths to environmental activism. No two journeys are the same, and this diversity of experience is one of the great strengths of our organization.

For me, my journey with the Chap-



Sierrans Norman Slawsky, Diane Shearer, Cecelia Harris, Roger Buerki, Brionté McCorkle, Nina Dutton and David Emory at the 2015 Martin Luther King Jr. Day march.

ter began just over a decade ago. I had recently moved back to my hometown of Atlanta to study urban planning at Georgia Tech, with a particular interest in sustainable transportation policy. It was not the best of times for transit advocates; politicians hostile to our cause had swept into power in the 2002 election and agencies like MARTA were seeing severe cutbacks. Against this difficult backdrop, Sierra Club was one of the few statewide organizations willing to aggressively engage on the issue, challenging bad ideas like the Northern Arc freeway and championing good ones like the then-obscure Atlanta BeltLine

concept. I knew right away that I had found a home as an activist.

This past November, I began my latest chapter as a Sierra Club volunteer, taking over as Georgia Chapter Chair from Mark Woodall after his six years of tireless service. And while it can at times be a daunting responsibility, I take comfort in the knowledge that I am surrounded by such an incredible group of people who have also found an "activism home" in the Sierra Club. As I read the personal stories highlighted in this issue, I am both inspired by our organization's history and optimistic for our future – and I hope that you are as well.

Be Green, Save Green – Become an E-Subscriber Today!

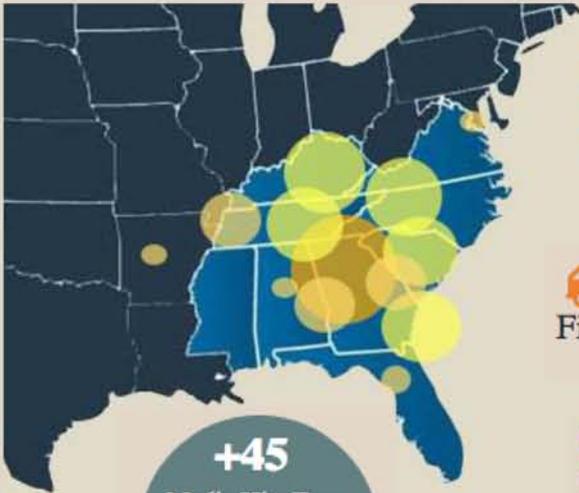


Did you know that the Georgia Chapter spends roughly 6 percent of its annual budget printing and mailing the Sierran? Looking for an easy way to help the Chapter – and the environment? Remember that at any time you may opt out of receiving the printed Sierran. Members who do so will continue to receive every issue in its entirety (in full, brilliant color, no less) – only it will arrive in their inboxes, not their mailboxes.

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 x221** 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.

ATLANTA CLIMATE MARCH: BY THE NUMBERS



Over 30 Recruitment Events Held in 30 Days



Filled 9 Buses and Vans with Supporters from over 25 Communities around the Southeast



Over 40 Participating Coalition Groups Working for Climate Justice!

+45
Media Hits From
Around the Region

248
Testimonies in
Support of Clean
Power Plan



981
Online Actions
Supporting Atlanta
Climate March

+700

Climate
Marchers!

1,760
Calls Made to Supporters

1,412
Postcards Signed by Supporters

45
New Climate Activists Trained

19
Hours of Data Entry



38 Pizzas Consumed to Fuel a
Historic Wave of Climate Activism

In this section, we feature three activists who had a major impact on the Georgia Chapter in 2014, with shorter pieces from activists who are doing great work in their local areas. We hope their stories inspire you, as they do us, to stand up, use your voice and find strength in our community.

Nina Dutton: A Journey to Activism

By Nina Dutton

Two veterans spoke to our third grade class about the landmines that blinded one of them and still endangered children like us in other countries. One of my classmates was so moved that she wanted to start an anti-landmine group. We drew a poster but got no further; our toys beckoned. In junior high, when other students planned a walkout to protest the invasion of Iraq, my goody-two-shoes self stayed out of the way. It wasn't until later, when our high school environmental club lined up a recycling program, that I finally took an active role in changing something for the better. On one hand, the process felt so mundane: phone calls, emails, meetings. On the other hand, knowing that I helped make that change happen was exhilarating and gratifying. It's these last two feelings that propel me through the day-to-day of activist work, even now.

After volunteering intermittently with the Georgia Chapter, I became more involved with the Sierra Club last year when a friend living in Mexico responded to a call for someone to organize a last minute vigil in Atlanta to protest the Keystone XL pipeline. She volunteered me for the job. With support from the Club and CREDO Action Network, another volunteer and I pulled together the event over a weekend. The respectable attendance at this vigil showed me that many in this city felt strongly about the issue; all they needed was an outlet to demonstrate it. What I have done on other Sierra Club campaigns, such as recruiting volunteers or canvassing voters, often follows the same theme: finding ways for people to make themselves heard. I'm also helping to gather and train Atlanta activists to



be prepared for nonviolent direct action against Keystone XL. What I've seen so far of organizing all points back to creating opportunities for those who are affected by issues to voice their opinions and bring about the changes they seek; I find this kind of work valuable and want to learn how to do it well.

Until the last few years, I considered the Sierra Club stuck with a turn-of-the-20th-century focus on conservation – a huge ship turning slowly as such ships do. I had discounted it until I started hearing about the Club's newer efforts on climate change and environmental justice. I have great respect for the Club's decision to use its legacy and power to support the work of an energized and increasingly diverse community of organizers and volunteers. I'm particularly impressed by what Sierra Club organiz-

ers have accomplished here in Georgia in the context of state politics (including stellar strides in renewable energy and transit in 2014). The ability of these organizers to bring about noteworthy results demonstrates that this organization has momentum, giving me confidence that my part in these campaigns is meaningful. I've also seen the Club draw together individuals whose passion for the issues and encouragement of one another's activism I find motivating.

The term "activist" still brings to my mind marches, sit-ins, strikes – the heart-stirring stuff of history books. Now, I have a better sense of how much planning goes into actions like those. I also know that many changes happen because of quieter moments too: long conversations between allies and with those who might act as opponents. This work can be slow, even when it's done by activists I admire who fight on for years. When the details become frustrating, I have to step back for some perspective. Developments that could be viewed naively in retrospect as inevitable – like passage of protections for civil rights, workers or public health – demanded the labor of many and plenty of time. When that arc bending toward justice looks long indeed, I look to elder activists for their persistence, as well as new activists, like those leading the Black Lives Matter protests, for their discontented energy.

A century from now, I hope the changes we're working toward feel as inevitable as the abolition of slavery seems to most in this country today. In the meantime, though, we can keep reminding one another that while progress is not inevitable, we can all contribute to the push forward.

The Public Servant as Activist: Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner

By Jeff Turner, Clayton County Board of Commissioners

In 1987 I joined the Clayton County Police Department because I wanted to serve the community where I grew up. As I served and rose through the ranks of the department, I was given the assignment of dealing with community activists. When I hear the term “activist,” I immediately understand it to mean someone who has a vested interest in a cause. As I continued to work with activists and started to see positive results of our collaborations, I started to realize the importance of activism and strength in numbers.



In 2006, when I became the chief of police for Clayton County, I engaged in a paradigm shift for the department by instituting community-oriented policing, which was a friendlier approach to policing and solicited the assistance and partnership of the community. My command staff and I acted as the lead activists for this initiative by meeting with the faith-based community, business owners, home owners associations and others. Within a year of implementing this approach, the police department was able to reduce the crime rate and improve its relationship with our community.

After leaving law enforcement I ran for public office and in November of 2012 was elected as the chairman of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners. As chairman, I championed causes such as toy drives for neglected and abused children in foster care, food drives for Kinship Care Resource Center and bringing transit back to Clayton County. It is my belief that when you are a public servant you should serve, and you do that by tending to the needs of others whether it be food, clothes or even toys to brighten a child’s morning on Christmas day.

I became a champion for transit’s return to Clayton County for several reasons. When we lost transit in 2010 the citizens were outraged. Residents stated that the shutting down of our transit system would have a dramatic effect on their livelihood. Much of our elderly population depended on mass transportation and the loss of the busses diminished their quality of life greatly. College-aged students suddenly found it difficult to get to Clayton State University and other local colleges and vocational schools. What really bothered me was seeing young

mothers walking along the side of the road with small children to or from a grocery store or other business because they had no car.

When I ran for the chairman’s seat my platform was centered on bringing transit back. I championed this cause because I heard the cry of our citizens and wanted to do what I could to help. After I was elected as chairman, I began to develop partnerships with organizations such as the Sierra Club, Clayton County Friends of Transit, Partnership for Southern Equity and others to start a ground campaign to educate our citizens about the benefits of having a transit system in our county. We were also fortunate to have some of the labor unions step in and conduct rallies and provide funds for signs and literature. Without these organizations I don’t believe that the return of transit to Clayton County would be a reality today.

I do the things that I do because I believe in the goodness of people and realize that everyone isn’t as blessed as some of us. My faith in God is what drives me to do what I can for others. If I am remembered for anything I have done in five years or even 100 years from now, I want it to be that I made a difference in someone’s life, even if it was only one.

“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”

- Mother Teresa



Chairman Jeff Turner (front) is joined by MARTA officials and supporters – including Colleen Kiernan, Chapter Director – following the successful Clayton County Commission vote to hold a MARTA referendum.

The Non-Activist Activist: Sammy Padgett

By **Sammy Padgett**
Georgia Chapter Outings Chair

I define an activist as one who is simply not afraid to take action. Many will stand in line to boastfully talk about change, but it is those who humbly do, who in due course will accomplish the alterations we define as change. How do you become an activist? I feel the answer is simple. Do something! If you do whatever you feel needs to be done with enough persistence, then change will ultimately become submissive to your actions. Fear may often be associated with taking action for change, whether it be the fear of failure or the fear of doing something wrong. A fear of failure will rise in those who do not do with persistence. Sure, you may fall flat on your face a few times, but that is just one of the many phases. Addressing the latter fear, both of my boys will be the first to tell you that I would rather see them do something, even it ends up being wrong, than stand around with their hands in their pockets, hoping for a mystical change-invoking phenomenon to occur. A true activist is able to push through the times their doings are a flop, and will treat those flops as stepping stones that will bring them closer to the set change they wish to achieve.

One of the activists who I look up to the most is John Bartram. John Bartram considered himself to be a plain farmer, with no formal education beyond the local school. I can relate to the “self-taught” methodology of learning. Most of the things that I have come to know have stemmed from having questions, and finding answers to those questions through doing. Bartram’s research led him on great adventures, and in turn inspired an adventurous spirit and mindset in his son, William Bartram.



John Bartram published journals derived from observations made during his travels. From these publications a “plain farmer” has provided a world of knowledge upon which others can build. For a self-taught man to now often be referred to as the “father of American botany” is pretty impressive in my book.

My motivating factors and contributions first started when I began teaching my sons about protecting and appreciating our lands, in hopes that they and generations to come can find the same enjoyment that the great outdoors has given me. They now attend the University of Georgia. My oldest is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Geology and my youngest is in the Natural Resources, Recreation and Tourism program. I believe that the fields they have selected may stem from values I instilled in them at a young age, and the gratification they found in being outside using the building blocks that I provided for them. They both work as trip leaders for the University’s Outdoor Recreation department. They engage with their peers, aspiring to spread knowledge and aware-

ness of the values with which outdoor sports can align. The three of us now share a mutual respect and love of teaching others in the hopes of expanding our wilderness areas and getting more people outside to enjoy the great outdoors.

Five years from now I would like to hear people say, “I spent my first nights sleeping in the woods with Sammy, and that is what caused me to get involved in the Sierra Club.” I find great joy in providing a basic building block with which others may alter themselves as they set out to achieve their own personal goals. One hundred years from now I would love to have a section of wilderness named after my family through a process of my children teaching their children and their children’s children. Knowing that these alterations could possibly be accomplished by my first actions keeps me doing.

I find inspiration from the grassroots background of Sierra Club, and as I simply try to “explore, enjoy and protect the planet,” I am constantly reminded that doing it gets it done on this beautifully awesome planet.

Karen Grainey, Costal Protection Activist

I grew up near Jacksonville, Florida, where I witnessed urban sprawl on steroids as land developers paved over beloved and beautiful places with strip malls, beachfront condominiums and endless acres of suburban housing estates. The adults in my life seemed to view this to be either a desirable state of affairs or a lamentable yet unavoidable consequence of progress. “Growth” was the drumbeat and very rarely did I hear words spoken against it. All of this saddened me, but it never occurred to me that I could do anything about it.



Coastal Georgia’s vast salt marshes and undeveloped barrier islands, while geographically near, were an extremely remote part of my consciousness. Our family ventured north for the grand opening of Cumberland Island National Seashore and a school field trip exposed me to the amazing Okefenokee Swamp.

It wasn’t until I moved to Savannah as an adult that I learned just how much of Georgia’s coast had been spared from the depredations of “growth.” Most importantly, I learned about how environmental activists like the late Ogden Doremus lobbied tirelessly for passage of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act. I heard Ogden speak at a public hearing and met local Sierra Club activists like Judy Jennings who were leading an ultimately successful campaign to stop the DuPont Corporation from strip mining near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. I saw how those activists were making a difference. I wanted to be a part of that, so I joined the Sierra Club.

That was fifteen years ago, and with the encouragement of the Sierra Club I’ve done things that I wouldn’t have dreamed of doing in my youth. I’ve also joined and supported other organizations, but it’s the Sierra Club which has truly demonstrated to me the power of grassroots activism and emboldened me to speak up and participate in public life. Given the current political landscape, environmental activists have a tough row to hoe, and it’s easy to get frustrated. But with the existential threat of climate change looming in the foreground, our work is more important than ever.

Robert Chambers, Cherokee County Road Activist

Life decisions are informed by closely held core beliefs even when we are not consciously aware of our beliefs. Some beliefs, like unconditional love for family and friends, are worthy of being held tightly; some, like indifference for the natural environment, need to be chiseled from our consciousness.



Unfortunately some closely held beliefs are based on myths with undesired consequences. J. M. Roberts in “The History of the World” posited that, “Human beings do not find it easy to pursue collective purpose without some sort of myth to justify them.”

The Georgia Legislature’s use of procedural gimmickry to pass HB 386 in the final week of the 2012 session awakened my awareness of the power of commonly held myths and my desire to try and make a difference. The bill raised taxes on select groups in a regressive manner to pay for tax breaks for a selected few. The myth was that the bill was revenue neutral and thus good and fair. I remain angry and confused by this gross injustice.

Currently my activities involve GDOT’s plans to build a limited access freeway across Cherokee and Forsyth Counties in the footprint of the twice defeated Northern Arc, a proposal based in myth not fact. This issue is about quality of life for current and untold future generations. Once lost, natural areas are very difficult if not impossible to restore. A favorite poem says it succinctly:

*While going up the stair I met a man who wasn't there,
He wasn't there again today,
I wish, I wish he would go away.*

- Author unknown

My passion is to help make sure our problems and solutions are real before taking irretrievable actions. If not, gone forever will be existing rural population densities that can coexist with natural habitats and “Cherokee: Gateway to the Mountains” will be a forgotten memory.

Focus: Activism from A to Z

The largest crescendo of activism for the Georgia Chapter in 2014 was for July's EPA hearing on the Clean Power Plan, which will reduce carbon emissions from power plants for the first time ever. Here's what some of the folks who played key roles in pulling off this major undertaking (see *By the Numbers*, p. 3) had to say about what they did.



“This summer’s public hearings on the proposed Clean Power Plan were a critical moment for the Sierra Club’s work to power our nation with clean energy. As a press secretary, I wanted to make sure the Atlanta hearing received a lot of positive media attention, and earned more media coverage than any other hearing. I helped achieve this goal by working tirelessly to attract the media and by working with our members, volunteers and partners to ensure our call for clean energy and carbon protections were heard by decision makers.”

Jenna Garland

“I participated extensively in the planning and execution of many facets of the EPA hearing including the prayer breakfast, march and rally, press conference and finally giving testimony before the EPA. I also truly enjoyed painting the march banners and signs, recruiting participants, writing and publishing an opinion editorial on the event and passing out nearly 700 sandwiches in Woodruff Park to participants. The event was truly a milestone for me personally; I had never witnessed such unselfish teamwork, genuine spirit of collaboration and relentless focus on a common goal. It was incredible! I was totally exhausted after the event.”

Garry Harris



“My efforts to make the Climate March and EPA testifying successful were to man several pre-march booths, wear my “Climate Action Now” T-shirt all the time, post numerous messages on Facebook, help make signs, help with the March-day logistics and testify before the EPA.”

Martin McConaughy



“Preceding the Atlanta Climate March I set up information booths at The Carter Center, the farmers market and in Little Five Points. Helped by other volunteers, I spent the day handing out flyers, explaining the EPA’s Clean Power Plan and inviting everyone to sign postcards and to attend our rally. Most of the people I spoke with didn’t know how coal plants harm the quality of our air, but nearly everyone — especially those with children in tow — signed our cards voicing support for the plan to reduce coal plant pollution. The huge attendance at the climate rally, and the two days of testimony by Georgians at the EPA hearings that followed, convinced me that volunteers willing to educate and nudge the public to action can indeed initiate change.”

Brenda Constan

Focus: Activism from A to Z



“In Savannah, our passionate environmental advocates pulled out all the stops for a broad outreach campaign that included tabling, giving presentations to affiliate groups, phone banking and social media outreach to bring a diverse Savannah contingent to the Atlanta Climate March. For us, this march was not just about making a statement for the EPA’s Clean Power Plan; it was also about community building: drawing together citizens from across Coastal Georgia. We are more unified now, and stronger for it. We all have new life for the fight.”

Yeou-Rong Jih

“I hosted a potluck and movie night at my home to help raise awareness about the Clean Power Plan, EPA hearing and Climate March with the Savannah River Sierra Club group. It’s really inspiring to see what happens when small groups of people working in their small corners of the world have an opportunity to come together to make a big statement.”

April Wilson



“The Centennial Group had about 10 members who turned out for the Climate March and Rally in July. We coordinated group transportation by riding MARTA to a spot near the rally. Riding MARTA as a group was a fun and excellent team-building experience. I think we all felt we were participating in something notable that could affect our area’s energy future.”

Bettye Harris

“Working on the Atlanta Climate March was a worthwhile and exciting endeavor. Witnessing such fervor from our nation’s citizens about wanting to leave a strong environmental legacy reminds me of why using the law and legislation is so important to achieving that goal.”

MaKara Rumley



“Getting involved in the Atlanta Climate March/Rally was an excellent opportunity for the LaGrange group! We were able to muster a dozen activists to travel via van to attend the monumental event in July and many more to attend a pre-rally informational meeting in LaGrange. A few folks phone banked from their homes, urging other Sierrans to participate. Dozens of climate action cards were signed and mailed to the EPA as well.”

Laura Breyfogle

Georgia Water Coalition Sets Priorities for 2015 Legislative Session

By Neill Herring

The Georgia Water Coalition (GWC), composed of over 200 organizations governed by a leadership team including Sierra Club, has chosen two legislative priorities for the 2015 Session of the General Assembly. In addition to these two positive changes the GWC will be seeking, there is a permanent GWC priority to defeat legislation that is harmful to conservation, the natural environment, or public health and safety.

The two positive bills this year are actually restorations of protections that have long been in place for the coastal marshes and for the vital coastal groundwater supply.

On Earth Day 2014 Judson Turner, Director of the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), issued a memorandum that effectively ended the state's enforcement of a 25-foot vegetated buffer on coastal marshlands. That buffer requirement had been in place for over 10 years because of an earlier memo by former EPD Director Carol Couch. The reason given for suspending the previous policy was that the Director did not believe the buffer was required by the Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Act.

The Director's problems seem to come from a phrase in the E&S law that says that the 25 feet of vegetated buffer should be measured from the point at which vegetation is "wrested" by the action of water; in other words, wherever a plant is washed away is where the buffer starts. The problem lies in that there is no "wrested vegetation" on the margins of many waters of the state.

The coastal marshes have no "wrested vegetation," nor



do many of the blackwater streams of south Georgia, which run straight through forests of gum and cypress, failing to wrest any of it loose. A bill to correct this problem for salt marshes will be introduced in 2015 and is expected to pass since even EPD is supporting it. Language to protect the other waters that have no buffers, like the south GA rivers, will also need to be added to the code.

Almost all Georgians who live below the Fall Line rely on groundwater for their drinking water. Most of that comes from the immense Floridan Aquifer underlying portions of Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. In the 1990s speculators proposed taking water from coastal rivers during floods, treating it with chemicals to attain drinking water standards, and injecting it into the Floridan for withdrawal and sale to users during droughts.

An outraged public learned about these plans and that the introduction of surface water into the aquifer could easily contaminate the very pure, highly filtered water on which their communities depend. Coastal legislators pushed through a moratorium on this process, called "aquifer storage and recovery" (ASR). That ban was renewed four times until Senator Ross Tolleson, Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, allowed it to expire in 2014.

In 2015, Senator William Ligon of Brunswick will introduce a bill to restore the moratorium on ASR in the water supply aquifer, and the Water Coalition strongly supports enactment. There are other aquifers in Georgia that also deserve protection, and Sen. Ligon's bill is written so that additional aquifers and additional counties may be added to the area in which full protection is mandated.

Join Us for Capitol Conservation Day!

Wednesday, February 18th, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Meet at Central Presbyterian Church:
201 Washington St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30303
(Five Points or Georgia State MARTA)

Sign up at www.georgiawater.org



Can Georgia Move Beyond “Business as Usual” on Transportation?

By Colleen Kiernan

“If you do things the way you always have, you’ll get what you’ve always gotten.”

Here we go again: our Georgia General Assembly is ready to do something “big” on transportation. Following the failure of the T-SPLOST in 2012, Sierra Club recommended a series of smaller, incremental steps, many of which are happening! Reforms at MARTA and Clayton County’s historic vote to join the system are two examples. We also made recommendations for reform at the state level, but there we have seen business as usual. This fall, a legislative study committee sought public input through a statewide listening tour. The make-up of the committee (state legislators, chambers of commerce and the like) was an assembly of the usual cast of characters. Thus, the approach is largely the same.

The premise of the “big plan” is to find or generate more money for the transportation system without examining the effectiveness of the system. The final report documents the pending problems with the federal Highway Trust Fund and uncertainty of future federal funds, while also noting how pesky the strings are (like complying with environmental regulations) that come with federal funding. Also well documented is that we are spending less than our neighbors, implying that we are falling behind. So, once again, the solution is to throw more money at the problem.

As of this issue’s publication, no actual legislative or funding proposal has materialized; all the study committee report provides is a “menu of options.” Though this approach is far from perfect, several of the options discussed do offer notable improvements over the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) of 2010. The funding being contemplated now would be ongoing, rather than the limited 10-year period under the TIA. Even more encouraging, state-level support for transit is now on the table as part of the solution, and Republican leaders are on record as supporting transit.

However, despite the gestures toward transit, the reality is we could end up with billions of new dollars for new roadway capacity that will fuel more sprawl development, with very little if any for transit. If we increase spending without expanding travel options, we will only dig our current congestion hole deeper. If we do not take this opportunity to rebalance our funding priorities between road capacity and bicycle, pedestrian, transit and rail infrastructure, we will lock in decades more of this type of development, along with the perception that metro Atlanta is a sprawl city.

Georgians should watch how mid-sized cities are treated. Will they get bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure? Will the state finally get serious about intercity and commuter rail? The final report references Florida frequently but doesn’t mention projects other than road spending. Orlando’s SunRail com-

muter rail project, which opened last May, had 10,000 riders the first day, and expects to average 4,000 daily passengers. Commuter rail, which uses existing freight rail corridors, is well suited for North Georgia’s many county seats which have walkable downtowns. Think of Lawrenceville, Marietta, La-Grange, Columbus, Macon and the redevelopments of Smyrna and Duluth to begin imagining what a good fit this could be for Georgia.

Here is what the Georgia Chapter’s Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee would like to see elevated in the discussion about transportation funding:

(1) There is no “solution” to traffic congestion; the issue of transportation needs to be reframed as whether Georgia offers meaningful mobility options, and we should rate ourselves by that, not on how much we spend or how many seconds we reduce from any given vehicle trip. Further, adding road capacity increases congestion.

(2) Road spending should follow a “fix it first” principle that puts safety as the primary goal and follows Georgia DOT’s Complete Streets guidelines.

(3) Land use and transportation are integrally linked.

(4) If we want to keep up with our competitors, we shouldn’t just match them dollar for dollar. Texas, Florida and North Carolina have invested significantly in the development of transit alternatives, which millennials and aging communities are demanding.

Atlanta Streetcar Hits the Rails!



Though we may or may not see meaningful progress on transit at the Capitol this year, one recent bright spot was the opening of the long-awaited Atlanta Streetcar on December 30. Pictured above are Lee Biola, David Emory, Colleen Kiernan and Bob Krone at the grand opening celebration. Rides are free until the end of March!

Georgia Giving Society 2014

The Georgia Chapter of Sierra Club established its Georgia Giving Society to honor individuals making significant gifts to the Georgia Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy.

Contributions from the Georgia Giving Society are integral to the hard work from volunteers and staff all around Georgia including promoting renewable energy, monitoring and protecting Georgia's pristine coastal marsh, and protecting our public forests in the North Georgia mountains. Please join us in thanking current members.

Listed below are the supporters who donated at the Live Oak Champion, Longleaf Pine Protector, Southern Magnolia Society and Evergreen Partner levels in 2014. If you would like to join or renew for 2015 please contact Colleen Kiernan at 404-607-1262 x.224. Your support is much appreciated.

Live Oak Champions

\$2,500 - \$50,000

Charles & Mary Bosserman
Mark Woodall
The Wardlaw Foundation

Longleaf Pine Protectors

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Sam & Laurie Booher
The Turner Foundation
Mitch Jacoby
Kelly Jordan
Jennifer & Bill Kaduck
Norman Slawsky & Marcia Abrams
Jim Smith
John & Midge Sweet
William Tietjen
Joni Winston

Southern Magnolia Society

\$500 - 999

Lee Adrean
Stephanie Stuckey Benfield &
Robert Benfield
Jeff Bennetzen
Samuel & Laura Breyfogle
Aubrey & Carol Bush
William Chapman
Ted & Lynda Doll
William Eisenhauer
David Emory
Earline Ham
Gurdon Hornor
Cynthia Jeness
Ragnar Johansen
Rebecca & Mark Klein
Gary & Maria Ludi
Kevin & Marcia Nuffer
Zolinda Stoneman

Tally Sweat
Morning Washburn
Pamela Woodley
Philip & Dorothy Zinsmeister

Evergreen Partners

\$100 - 499

David Barrett
Lynn & Michael Beach
Felicia Bianchi
Haute Bicycle
Carl Buice
Catherine Butler
Jeb & Tyra Byers
Jim Callison & Tamara McClelland
Bruce Carraway
Barbara Carter
Anthony Caswell
Tom & Stephanie Coffin
Don & Claudia Collier
Ralph & Rita Connell
Charles Cook

Support Your Chapter

Evergreen Partners

(continued from previous page)

Jody Cook

Eileen Cooley in Memory of
David S. Clifton Jr.

Lyndsey Darrow &
Matthew Strickland

Reynolds Davant

Robert Denham

Dr. David & Mindy Egan -
Initiative to Protect Jekyll Island

Eddie Elhert

Martin & Anne Emanuel

Dan Everett

Jannah Goodell

Seth Gunning

Lisa & Bruce Gunning

Robert & Carolyn Hargrove

Arthur Hagar

Carolyn Hall

Hildegard Hall

Eleanor Hand

Eugene & Carol Hatfield

Steven & Susan Hauser

Konrad Hayashi

Neill Herring

Joan Hesterberg

Bruce & Lilly Higgins

Dave & Carolyn Hinderliter

Richard Hines

Lynn Hodgson

Cecil Hudson

Christian James

Roger & Jean Johnson

Terry Jones

Howard Kaplan & Julie Edelson

Dolly Katz

William Keir

Walter & Sandra Kruger

Thomas & Elizabeth Loria

Laura & David Majors

Kerry McArdle

Jeanne McCarthy

Thomas & Ward Milner

Thomas & Marie Neff

Richard & Nancy Negley

Robert & Colleen Nilson

Sue Osier

Robin Peterson

Jim & Karen Powell

James & Christina Powers

Thomas & Margaret Rasmussen

John Raymer & Virginia Ferrell

Martin Rosenman

Garvis Sams

Susan Schultz

Diane Shearer

Bob & Jane Springfield

Helen Stacey

Wayne & Glenna Stanhouse

Marianne Tanner

Lee Thomas

Jeremy Thurman

Alan Toney

Jerome Walker

Martha Walsh

Lynn Walston

Janet Wantland

John Willingham

Kurt Zeller

Thank You to Georgia Giving Society of 2014!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SIERRA CLUB

We send out an appeal in March to each of our members, asking for contributions directly to our Chapter. These contributions really do make a difference to us, and are an important part of our Chapter's budget.

When you make a donation to the Chapter, you support the Sierra Club's work in your own backyard. You allow us to continue our work to protect wilderness and wildlife, to improve the quality of life in our cities, and to promote the enjoyment of nature.

Please be as generous as you are able - and remember, these funds directly affect your way of life in your neighborhood.

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible.

Mail your contribution to:

Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743 East College Avenue, Suite C, Decatur, Georgia 30030

Welcome New Chapter ExCom Members

Thank you to everyone who voted in the annual Georgia Chapter and Group Executive Committee Elections last fall. We would like to welcome three new members to the Chapter Executive Committee: Jennifer Kaduck of Stone Mountain, Tom Neff of Marietta and Diane Shearer of Tucker.



Jennifer Kaduck



Tom Neff



Diane Shearer

Jennifer Kaduck is a 20-year Sierra Club member. As a volunteer, Jennifer has advised the Sierra Club on legislative and policy issues and has supported the Beyond Coal Campaign.

Tom Neff is approaching 30 years as a Sierra Club member and has served in several other roles both at the Chapter and National levels.

Diane Shearer is a 10-year Sierra Club member and has been an active supporter of the Smart Energy Committee.

Thank You to Our Outgoing ExCom Members



Sara Black



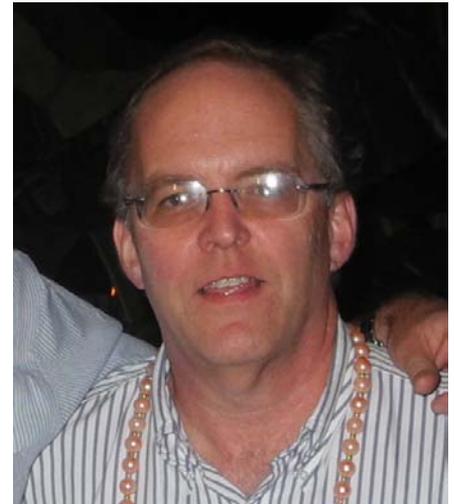
Todd Daniel



Midge Sweet

We also want to recognize **Sara Black**, **Todd Daniel**, and **Midge Sweet** who have rotated off the committee. Thank you for your service!

Thank You, Woodall!



A special thanks is in order to our Executive Committee Chair of six years, **Mark Woodall**, who has transitioned into the role of our conservation chair. Check out our amazing "thank you for your 6 years" video on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbHX57Kejtk>.

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.

Moving? Send address changes to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968. Send changes by email: address.changes@sierraclub.org

The Georgia Sierran (ISSN 1044-825) is published quarterly by the Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA and other mailing addresses. Subscription fees: \$1.00 annually for Chapter members (included with membership dues) or \$12.00 annually for nonmembers. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Sierra Club, Georgia Chapter, 743B East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030

Membership

Sierrans Ring in Holidays at Chapter Open House



A spirited crowd of Sierra Club staff, members and friends kicked off the holiday season at the annual open house at the Chapter office in Decatur. See additional photos on the Chapter Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gasierraclub/>).



Outgoing Chapter Chair Mark Woodall was recognized for his longtime service. Other honorees included “Outstanding Volunteers” Lynn Beach, Sammy Padgett, Midge Sweet, Brenda Constan & Martin McConaughy, and Diane Shearer; and “Rising Stars” Lyndsey Crumpton, Nina Dutton, Sharon Soucek, Yeou Rong Jih, and Marcus Sharpe.



photo by Marco Scurati

GOING, GOING... GONE?

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.



F94Q W 3400 1

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

Outings

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>

Saturday, January 31, 2015

Vogel State Park to Blood Mountain

Time: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (tentative)

Leader: Lee Graham - 404-202-9065, leegrah3@gmail.com

Presented by: Georgia Chapter

Rated: Strenuous

Registration: Required before January 29, 2015, 9 p.m.

Location: Vogel State Park, Chattahoochee National Forest, 405 Vogel State Park Road, Blairsville, GA 30512

Description: A winter hike from Vogel State Park up to Blood Mountain via the Coosa Loop, Duncan Ridge Trail and Appalachian Trails. We will have lunch on top of Blood Mountain at the CCC Shelter. We will return to Vogel via the same trails, but take the parallel Bear Hair Trail with a short loop trail to the Lake Trahlyta overlook on the return. Bring gloves, warm hats, good boots and layers of clothing as we enjoy the woods in the winter. The trail is generally moderate except for a steep uphill in mile 2. We will take a moderate pace. Hiking poles will be helpful, especially if we have snow or ice. The hike is approximately 9 miles with 2200 feet of elevation gain. Limit: 10.

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Springer Mountain Winter Hike

Time: 9 a.m.

Leader: Linda Sealey - 770-229-9847, linda.sealey@armhc.org

Presented by: Georgia Chapter

Rated: Moderate

Registration: Optional

Location: Vogel State Park, Chattahoochee National Forest, 405 Vogel State Park Road, Blairsville, GA 30512

Description: Moderate, 9-mile hike from Springer Mountain parking to Amicalola Falls Visitor Center. Limit of 8 participants. We will park across from the visitor center at Amicalola Falls State Park and take a shuttle to the parking area on Springer Mountain (shuttle cost \$13.00/person). We will begin by hiking 1 mile south on the A.T. toward the top of Springer Mountain. After taking time to visit the oldest shelter on the A.T. in Georgia, we will continue hiking to the start of the A.T. where hundreds of hikers will begin their attempt to thru-hike each spring. We will continue 8 more miles on the Approach Trail passing Black Mountain Gap shelter, Nimblewood Gap and crossing Frosty Mountain. This is a pretty trail and the beginning for most thru-hikers. This trail southbound has some short moderate sections but nothing too hard.

Saturday, February 7, 2015

Orchids and the Zoo

Time: 10 a.m.

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

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Rated: Easy

Description: We will eat lunch in Columbia then view spectacular orchids followed by an afternoon at the Riverbanks Zoo. Great family fun! Admission \$13.95/person.

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Horn Creek Trail Hike

Time: 10 a.m.

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

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Rated: Moderate

Description: Moderate hike on the Horn Creek Trail for 5 miles. Contact Cathy for meet-up location.

Friday, April 3, 2015

Congaree National Forest - Camp, Canoe and Hike

Time: 3 p.m.

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

Presented by: Savannah River Group

Rated: Easy

Description: Join us for a weekend of camping, canoeing & hiking in the Congaree National Forest. Celebrate our National heritage exploring old growth forests, swampland and big trees. Bring your canoe or rent one. Reservations required; \$25.



GREEN OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE

\$1,500/month 404-794-2023

- ITP / Westside area
- 15 minutes from downtown Atlanta and Smyrna. 5 minutes to I-75 & I-285.
- Solar Power
- Geothermal HVAC (Utilities included)
- Electric Car Charging Station
- Beautiful Deck on Top Level



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Create an Environmental Legacy.

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

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

For confidential assistance, contact:

Sierra Club

Gift Planning Program

85 Second Street, Second Floor

San Francisco, CA 94105

gift-planning@sierraclub.org + (800) 932-4270

EarthShare
Georgia

One environment.
One simple way to care for it.™

Working for the day
when our Air, Land
and Water are clean,
abundant and healthy.

Start an EarthShare of Georgia employee
giving campaign today!

404.878.3173

www.earthsharega.org

MARTA: A Lifeline During Winter Weather

By D. Gordon Draves

There was a copious amount of coverage of last year's January snow storm, but it was primarily about the negative impacts of the weather event on the city's mobility. Reporters forgot to mention that MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) trains were still running. As the snow continued to fall, fewer and fewer MARTA bus routes were usable, but the trains did keep moving passengers from one side of town to the other. However, based on my observations, that point was not reported by many television and radio stations as they kept up their commentary of crashes and general gridlock.

"Last Tuesday night, huddled behind the steering wheel in an overcoat, gloves and a hat, Buckhead Coalition president Sam Massell was gridlocked on Atlanta's main artery, stuck in the slush with the rest of us," Richard Eldridge wrote in Atlanta Magazine. Massell was mayor (1970 to 1974) during the founding of MARTA and, according to Eldridge, "has



Downtown Atlanta as seen from the MARTA Blue Line during last year's "snowpocalypse"

observed as metro Atlantans repeatedly snub the solution of public transit, to our peril." In praise of MARTA, Massell stated that "MARTA was truly a saving grace last week and we should be thankful for it." Massell noted that many trapped downtown could have gotten closer to home by using MARTA and that many of them could have benefited if MARTA had been approved by Clayton, Cobb and Gwinnett counties rather than solely in DeKalb and Fulton. (Since the storm, Clayton County residents voted to expand MARTA into their area.)

In his editorial, Atlanta Journal-Constitution writer Kevin Riley was

much harsher regarding the way things were handled. But he had a good point: "We insist on proceeding with each county as its own independent entity – and new cities cropping up like spring tulips – with each of them overseeing their share of the metro's already-inadequate patchwork of roads. If we

continued on next page

Meetings & Programs

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Snacks at 7 p.m., program begins at 7:30 (directions at bottom)

February 10 Meeting: News From Under the Gold Dome

Neill Herring and Mark Woodall will answer our questions about what the Georgia General Assembly is up to since the session began on January 12th.

March 11 Meeting: Founding of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

Roger Buerki will tell the inside stories (names included) of how environmental and political activism by citizens fostered the creation of the CRNRA.

Adopt-A-Stream Program Events

Chemical monitoring will be done in January and February. For more information about chemical monitoring, exact dates, and details regarding directions and parking, call Larry Kloet at 404-636-7226.

Biological monitoring will occur on March 14th. For more information about biological monitoring, including directions and parking details, call Nancy Wylie at 404- 256-1172.

Hikes in Connally Nature Park

April is the month for the pink ladyslippers to bloom. Gordon Draves will be leading several hikes during the month, so keep an eye out for announcements on the website below.

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 Drive. **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/>

Metro Atlanta Group

continued from previous page

continue on that path, the leaders of those places have to be prepared to handle their business – and communicate effectively with the public to prevent problems from worsening.” He questioned whether they had been working together or not, and lamented that there had been too many accidents further clogging roads and children had been sleeping in schools or on buses. He blasted leaders for being surprised at what happened in a predicted storm and concluded that “we’re on our own.” However, he didn’t mention MARTA’s good contribution.

The Atlantic’s Ian Bogost noted that “the real cause of the bedlam is complicated, a network of interwoven factors, from metro Atlanta’s balkanized politics to the ongoing effects of race relations on public infrastructure.” The disconnect among the various governments is a major flaw in the transportation mix. However, MARTA is a uniting force for the areas it serves, whether side streets in Sandy Springs or running buses out I-20. But unless the media keeps people informed about how MARTA is functioning then people don’t see the option. People chose to walk in the snow after their cars got stuck. For those who have monthly parking passes, maybe some of them would have left their cars parked at work and walked to MARTA stations to get closer to home.

Some pointed to this colossal mess and blamed it on ev-

eryone leaving their jobs or schools at the same time. Others said that trucks should have been prevented from driving on the interstates, while a few say that part of the problem could have been helped if the truckers had put on their snow chains and crunched the ice so it would be less of a problem for other vehicles.

Some children had rather horrible times on school buses, but others had an adventure camping out at their schools. Many motorists were trapped in their cars for hours. Others found shelter in Home Depot and CVS stores, sleeping on the floors in the aisles. It was quite costly, as more than 900 accidents occurred and many businesses closed the next day also.

MARTA is a resource that metro Atlanta can use or not. How many would have used it if they had been told by the media that the rail service was still available, or that some buses were still driving the streets? MARTA rail was an option that many could have taken, and their vehicles would have greatly reduced the congestion on the roads.

MARTA buses do have their limits in icy conditions, and many have to stop running due to the narrow streets that they navigate, but if there is another “snowmageddon” or other emergency, it is hoped that the media will do a much better job of telling people where MARTA is functioning. MARTA is an asset for moving people around the metro area it covers, but people must know if it is working.

Savannah River Group

Our November ExCom election resulted in the return of old-timers Sam Booher and Greg Sutherland joined by a new member, Linda McBurney, who has been very active in group outreach activities. Congratulations to all!

We brought 2014 to a scrumptious ending by celebrating with our annual Christmas party at the home of Sam and Laurie Booher. Then, not missing a beat, we began 2015 with some outstanding programs at our monthly meetings. In January Dr. Cathy Tugmon shared her summer adventures in China, featuring beautiful photos of scenery, and in contrast, Chinese pollution problems (see photos). In February, the program featured Acadia National Park hiking and rock climbing. Photographer Ed McCranie and intrepid hiker Rich Dillen-



Boating on Lee River, China

beck produced a fantastic PowerPoint of their trail and rock climbing adventures.

We are looking forward to a March program which will focus on biking with Larry Komp who leads many of our biking forays and is an active member of SORBA. Those of you who do trail riding will know that SORBA – the South-



Yangtze River pollution, China

ern Off-Road Bicycle Association – is the largest nonprofit mountain biking organization in the Southeast. Members focus on creating trails and trail systems for mountain bikers and other users to enjoy.

- Judy Gordon, Co-Chair

Activism Efforts in LaGrange

By Laura Breyfogle

In the 6 ½ years since becoming a group, Sierrans in LaGrange have completed a variety of projects, some local and others as part of statewide conservation efforts. Our local group founder, Jeannine Honicker, dreamed up the Trees for Tots project in which up to 2,000 local elementary students were given instructions and a tree to plant each year around Arbor Day. Also, over the years, at least a dozen volunteers trained to participate in the state-organized Adopt-a-Stream program. We plan to provide a few volunteers to aid the local Chattahoochee Riverkeeper office in their newly designed Neighborhood Water Watch water monitoring program. In addition, we have provided teams for roadside clean-up efforts organized by Keep Troup Beautiful as well as West Point Lake cleanups.

Several years ago we completed small local beautification projects at women's shelters, a nursing home and the central recycling drop-off location. Certainly the most exciting opportunity we have had was attending the Atlanta Climate Change Rally/March, which focused on supporting the EPA Proposed Carbon Rule, last July. We have also attended hearings involving the Georgia Power Rate Case and permitting for a proposed biomass plant in Troup County. Members have signed numerous action cards encouraging our senators and representatives to make efforts to expand Georgia's wilderness areas. At Neill Herring and Mark Woodall's urging, we have called and mailed action cards to our state politicians concerning a wide array of conservation-oriented bills. In reviewing our efforts, I realize that while we have indeed striven to protect our planet, we must do more!

Our current efforts in activism are focused on persuading/supporting the City of LaGrange to adopt a curbside recycling program. We are currently limited to recycling drop-off locations, which are used but greatly limit participation

as compared to a curbside recycling option. We must convince our city council of the numerous benefits this endeavor would provide for our community. Thus far, we have spoken at a recent city council meeting, formally stating a request for curbside recycling. Our local board has drafted letters to our mayor and each council member. We also plan to submit petitions signed by a larger audience. WE NEED YOUR INPUT as to how we can successfully influence our city council to adopt curbside recycling as part of our city's waste management program. Please send comments/suggestions to Laura Breyfogle at breyfogle@charter.net.

Many of us know that John Muir's passion for exploring and enjoying his beloved Sierras fueled his passion for protecting them. Let us all fulfill our call to activism, following in his footsteps!

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings below held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 207 N. Greenwood in LaGrange. Welcome/refreshments at 6:30 p.m.; Program begins at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20th: Speaker Nathan Klaus from the Georgia DNR nongame program will give a presentation on prescribed burning practices.

Tuesday, February 17th: Speakers Neill Herring and Mark Woodall will give an annual legislative update.

Tuesday, March 17th: Speaker Jim Thornton (mayor of LaGrange) will give a presentation of sustainable programs in LaGrange.

Greater Gwinnett Group

As we stand at the beginning of 2015, a brief remembrance of 2014 is in order. The Gwinnett Group completed another year of stream monitoring and training other organizations to monitor their streams and rivers. We have made inroads in minority communities and have pushed for transportation options in our county. Our programs on GMOs have been groundbreaking in their information; additionally, our members have enjoyed presentations on solar and wind power, a travelogue of Point Reyes, organic gardening, the Port of Savannah, the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area,

and our annual Chapter reviews and Legislative Updates.

While what we have done in 2014 was great, there is much more we need to do in 2015. We plan to increase our outreach efforts to our membership and to the Gwinnett community, work for transportation options, work with communities for better food choices and lay the groundwork for a more environmentally friendly county government. The challenges are large but the rewards are even larger. Yes, 2015 is going to be a great year.

- Dan Friedman

Holiday Gathering Recap

The Centennial Group ended 2014 with our annual holiday potluck party and fundraising auction. More than 40 attended. Once again, our generous host was Centennial member Shae Avery, owner of the Avery Gallery in Marietta. We raised more than \$800. Guests included Chapter staff members Colleen and Brionté, and several newcomers. Thanks again to our talented and entertaining auctioneer, Ron Warnken. Congratulations to Ina Allison, Todd Daniel, Roberta Cook, and Bob and Jane Springfield who were recognized for their outstanding contributions in 2014. Special thanks also to retiring ExCom member and newsletter editor, Sheri Workman.



Can You Help?

The Centennial Group is in need of a **Website Wizard & Assistant** and a **Newsletter Editor & Assistant**. Contact Lynn Walston, lynnwalston22@yahoo.com, or Todd Daniel, gooseboy1@gmail.com, for details.

Meetings & Programs

Special February Celebrations

Please join us on Saturday afternoon, **February 8th**, at East Cobb Park in Marietta for a dedication ceremony and celebration for two Centennial friends and heroes, **Rush Netterville** and **Roberto Moraes**, who passed away early last year. A memorial tree and bench honoring Rush were recently installed at the park; a specially engraved cobblestone honoring Roberto will soon be installed. Join us at 2:30 p.m. for brief comments, music, food, drink and a walk in the park.

Please also join us on **February 28th** for another **Adopt-a-Mile Cleanup** of our adopted segment of Lower Roswell Road (the 'Lower Roswell Trail,' a.k.a. 'The Rushway') that honors Rush Netterville who was largely responsible for creating this pedestrian/bike trail. Contact Todd Daniel, gooseboy1@gmail.com, for details.

Group Meetings

We usually meet the 1st Thursday of each month. Social time begins at 7 p.m.; programs are from 7:30-9:00. Life University Gymnasium, Room 311, 1269 Barclay Circle, Marietta.

February 5: Georgia Legislative Update – Neill Herring and Mark Woodall. Georgia Legislature session.

March 5: Jerry Hightower – Mr. Hightower joins us from the Chattahoochee Nature Center with a special program that will appeal to kids and adults.

April 2: Stump the Chumps – Try to Stump the Chumps (backyard garden, native plant and tree enthusiasts Steven Bell, Tom Neff and Jorg Voss) in a special Q&A interactive session.

Outings Program

Our outings program is growing! We have three newly certified Centennial outing leaders, bringing the total number to seven. In 2014 we led five hikes in the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CNRA); four bicycle rides on the Silver Comet Trail; a joint bird-watching outing with the Atlanta Audubon Society; an educational tour of the Atlanta Beltline; two hikes in the Blood Mountain Wilderness Area (see details on p. 16); and one hike each at Sope Creek, Sweetwater Creek and Smith-Gilbert Gardens. We hope to match or better that record in 2015. Please join us and consider becoming an outing leader yourself.

Chapter Contacts

Executive Committee

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

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

Vice Chair - Conservation: Mark Woodall,
706-674-2242, woodallmark8@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

Jackie Echols, 678-974-7927
jmechols@bellsouth.net
At-Large Elected Member

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

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

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

Jennifer Kaduck, 770-925-2575,
jkaduck@mindspring.com
At-Large Elected Member

Tom Neff, 770-565-3869,
tsneff2003@yahoo.com
At-Large Elected Member

Diane Shearer, 770-934-7062,
djshearer@bellsouth.net
At-Large Elected Member

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

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, March 21st 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: 4th Tuesday of the month, 6 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 Editors: Tanya Frazee and Diane Shearer, gasierran@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Sammy Padgett,
sammypadgett@comcast.net

Political Chair: Eddie Ehlert,
edehlert@bellsouth.net

Webmaster: Charlotte Gardner,
ga_sierra_webmaster@yahoo.com

Issue Campaigns and Contacts

Clean Air: Dale Kemmerick,
dalekemmm@comcast.net

Coastal Issues: Steve Willis,
snwillis@yahoo.com

• **Coastal Marsh:** Karen Graineay,
karengraineay@bellsouth.net

• **Marine Species/Habitat:** Karen Graineay,
karengraineay@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,
toddan@mac.com

Recycling: Lori Blank, lblank@hotmail.com

Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL): Marcus Sharpe, marcusseattle@live.com
Meeting: 4th Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Committee sometimes skips months. Email 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:** *vacant*

• **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:

vacant
Meeting: 3rd Monday, 7 p.m., Chapter office. Committee sometimes skips months. Email 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 x224,
colleen.kiernan@sierraclub.org

Chapter Conservation Coordinator:

Bronté McCorkle, 404-607-1262 x232,
bronte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

Chapter Volunteer Coordinator:

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

Sierra Club National Programs

Inspiring Connections Outdoors

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 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 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 520 E. Washington Ave, Savannah.

Greater Gwinnett Group

Serving Gwinnett County

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 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 Blicht simblich@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, joannabbaxter@yahoo.com

Meetings: 3rd Tuesdays; 6:30 p.m. welcome and refreshments, 7 p.m. 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: Jeff Bragg, braggson@springmail.com

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

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy, mcmarty@bellsouth.net

Meetings: 2nd Tuesdays, 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.

Regional Contacts

LeConte Group/Athens & North-east Georgia

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

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 St. 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 email list. Just send an email 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 listserv at:
gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com

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

Visit the Georgia Chapter web page and click on "Local Groups" for info on local groups' email lists.

Looking for a Group near your home?

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

CLIMATE
RECOVERY
PARTNERSHIP





**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

**TRADE VIRTUAL REALITY
FOR ACTUAL REALITY.**

JOHN MUIR OUTINGS

Celebrate Earth Day – and Georgia’s spectacular beauty – all month long. Each Saturday in April, we’re hosting an outing where you can learn about our state’s threatened areas and how to protect them. To support the Georgia Chapter’s work, a donation of \$25 per person per outing is requested. What better way to honor Earth and our founder, John Muir?

Look for more info by March 1st at
georgia.sierraclub.org/johnmuiroutings



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892