



# Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

## Be a #ClimateVoter

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# Elections Matter!

By **Ted Terry**

Hurricane Matthew's recent land-fall on the eastern seaboard has wreaked havoc on many communities — knocking out power for hundreds of thousands, flooding low lying areas, and causing millions of dollars in damages in North Carolina, Florida and right here in Georgia. For our neighbors to the south in the Caribbean island nation of Haiti, where the death toll has reached nearly 1,000, with more than 200,000 living without shelter, food or medical care, Hurricane Matthew brought devastation.

For many, enduring a natural disaster like this one serves as a reminder of the forces beyond their control, while others reflect on how arbitrary these catastrophes seem. While it's true that storms and natural disasters are random in where they hit, and how deeply they impact states and entire nations, we cannot dismiss them as chance events when we know climate change is actively exacerbating the problem.

As individuals, we have very little say about what our country does on the global scale, or even about what our state does. But we do have a say when it comes to who is making those decisions. In 2014, the Georgia gubernatorial election was decided by less than



*Ted Terry, Chapter Director*

200,000 votes. After that election, the Georgia Legislature passed a transportation bill that axed clean air tax incentives for purchasing electric vehicles, while doing little else but essentially funding road paving. Now we also have an attorney general and an administration suing President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency over the most significant clean air and clean energy policy measure in our lifetime, the Clean Power Plan.

Suffice to say — that election mattered. Yet when we look at the voter modeling data from the nonpartisan Environmental Voter Project, we see

that more than 406,000 Georgia “climate voters” (people who care about climate change) did not vote in 2014. What stopped all these people who care about addressing climate change from voting two years ago? Maybe they didn't think their votes mattered; maybe they thought all politicians are the same and nothing would change. If the decisions that followed the 2014 election demonstrate anything, it's that things did change, just not in the way we wanted them to.

This Nov. 8, we have an opportunity to send a message about the strength of the voting electorate that considers climate change a real threat to our way of life in America and to the millions of people around the world, and we must vote as if all those lives depend on it. Even though some might not be so ecstatic about their choices for president, U.S. Senate, or even for local State House races, do not be confused; climate change action is on the ballot this Nov. 8. We have the numbers. We have the power to make the difference in Georgia. Join us in encouraging all of our fellow climate voters to get out and vote. You can learn more about our political action work this election cycle at: [www.sierraclub.org/georgia/political](http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/political). 🌲

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



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If you prefer to continue receiving the printed newsletter, there is no need to do anything. But if you'd like to switch to the electronic edition please contact the Chapter office at **404-607-1262 x221** or [georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto: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.*

## Are You a Climate Voter?

By **Brionté McCorkle**

Polls show electoral races tightening, from the presidential race all the way down ballots. Climate champions across the country need your help if we're going to win the White House and Senate in November. These are the champions we need to pass laws to protect our water and wild places, expand transit and renewable energy, and to keep us moving forward. Each election, the Sierra Club releases a Voter Guide for presidential and congressional races to help our members, supporters and the public choose the candidates who will protect our environment. You can check out this year's Sierra Club Voter Guide at [sierraclub.org/voterguide](http://sierraclub.org/voterguide).

Right here in Georgia, we also endorse state and municipal candidates who we believe will be true champions on our issues. That's why we are excited to unveil our 2016 Georgia Sierra Club General Election Endorsements slate.

There's so much at stake this year, and it's clear from the polls that it's going to be frighteningly close. The Paris

Climate Agreement, the president's Clean Power Plan, the fate of the Environmental Protection Agency, basic safeguards for our air and water, the balance of the Supreme Court for perhaps a generation, and countless other critical fights hang on a thread. Here in Georgia, our state's clean energy future lies in the hands of the legislature... and it all depends on getting out the vote for climate champions in November.

We have a plan. Here in Georgia, we have set a goal of reaching 20,000 pro-environment households before Election Day. Across the nation, we have more than 2.4 million energized members and supporters ready to stand up for our cause. We have a network of 64 well-organized chapters spread across all 50 states waiting to spring into action. We have our dedicated field operation, the Victory Corps, poised to deploy staff and mobilize our members in a huge grassroots push to sway voters.

Now we just need you to help mobilize every Climate Voter you know between now and Election Day! 🌱

### City of Atlanta: Vote YES to MARTA!



*On Nov. 8, Atlantans will have the opportunity to vote on significantly expanding MARTA. Projects include finishing the Atlanta BeltLine loop, revising MARTA's entire bus service, building light rail to Emory University and much more. This is an amazing opportunity to get cars off the roads and to help build a more walkable Atlanta. Since we launched our "Yes to MARTA" campaign, many Sierrans have stepped up to help make buttons, plant yard signs, make phone calls and knock on doors to help get out the "Yes" vote for MARTA. We believe this is just the beginning for our state. We envision Georgia's*

*future to be a connected one in which Georgians from all walks of life can travel freely through passenger rail service between Atlanta, Athens, Columbus, Macon and many more places without ever having to sit in pollution-causing traffic jams. We know that a strong transit network encourages economic activity and look forward to seeing Georgia's sleepy downtowns reinvigorated by the life transit will bring.*

*Keep an eye out next year when we unveil our newest campaign: Get on Board Georgia!*

## Sierra Club 2016 General Election Endorsements

### President of the United States

**Hillary Clinton** is endorsed by the National Sierra Club Board of Directors

### U.S. House of Representatives

**4th District** Hank Johnson  
**5th District** John Lewis  
**13th District** David Scott

### Georgia State Senate

**SD 2, Savannah** Lester Jackson  
**SD 5, Tucker** Curt Thompson  
**SD 10, Decatur** Emanuel Jones  
**SD 15, Columbus** Ed Harbison  
**SD 34, Riverdale** Valencia Seay  
**SD 35, Atlanta** Donzella James  
**SD 36, Atlanta** Nan Orrock  
**SD 38, Atlanta** Horacena Tate  
**SD 39, Atlanta** Vincent Fort  
**SD 41, Tucker** Steve Henson  
**SD 42, Atlanta** Elena Parent

### Georgia House of Representatives

**HD 30, Oakwood** Michelle Jones\*  
**HD 40, Smyrna** Erick Allen\*  
**HD 42, Smyrna** Stacey Evans  
**HD 53, Smyrna** Sheila Jones  
**HD 56, Atlanta** "Able Mable" Thomas  
**HD 80, Brookhaven** Taylor Bennett  
**HD 81, Atlanta** Scott Holcomb  
**HD 86, Stone Mtn.** Michele Henson  
**HD 93, Lithonia** Dar'shun Kendrick  
**HD 96, Duluth** Pete Marin  
**HD 101, Lawrenceville** Sam Park\*  
**HD 108, Lilburn** T.R. Radjabov\*  
**HD 136, Columbus** Carolyn Hugley  
**HD 137, Columbus** Debbie Buckner

\* New Endorsements -- Candidates Challenging Incumbents / Open Seats

# Let's Solarize Georgia!

**By Eleanor Hand**

The price of installing solar panels on your home, business or place of worship is being reduced! In several communities across Georgia, homeowners and business owners are joining together to buy solar installations in bulk through a Solarize program. Hopefully, other Georgia communities will organize Solarize programs and their local Sierra Club chapters can participate.

Solarize, a national program supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, streamlines the selection of an installer and organizes buying in bulk to reduce cost. Begun in Portland, Oregon, the program has been implemented in more than 200 communities around the nation.

Solarize Tybee, which spread countywide, was the first Solarize project in Georgia. The program brought discounted solar panels to about 60 homes in Chatham County in 2015. Now, Hannah Solar, which won the bid in the initial Solarize Tybee program, is offering a second round of the bulk buying to any suitable rooftop within 100 miles of Savannah.

Solarize Athens is presently installing 320 kilowatts (kW) of residential solar on a total of 74 homes at a price of \$2.90/kW and 94.5 kW of commercial solar at a price of \$2.45/kW. The Solarize Athens campaign was a project of a public-private coalition consisting of Environment Georgia, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL), Georgia Climate Change Coalition, and Solar CrowdSource. Solarize Athens community partners include the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and the Athens Branch of the U.S. Green Building Council. Alternative Energy Southeast (AES), which won the bid for So-



larize Athens, is currently installing in the Athens area. Solarize Athens is now closed for new applicants but you can take a look at the details of the Athens program at: [www.solarizeathens.com](http://www.solarizeathens.com).



The Georgia Sierra Club is a partner in the Solarize Decatur-DeKalb program, along with Environment Georgia, GIPL, Southeast Green, the City of Decatur Environmental Sustainability Board and Solar CrowdSource. The organizers of the campaign sought competitive bids from the local solar community to ensure best-in-class materials are installed by qualified solar professionals for the lowest price. Creative Solar USA was chosen to install the residential solar, and Hannah Solar was chosen for the commercial and institutional installations. Residents, businesses, local gov-

ernments and nonprofits in Decatur and DeKalb County are encouraged to sign up for a free solar evaluation between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31. The more Decatur and DeKalb County residents who participate, the greater the savings! And the more who participate the more that is donated to the Georgia Sierra Club in return for the club's participation. The Sierra Club involvement includes an open house that took place on Sept. 24, an upcoming presentation at the November Sierra Club and Beer, a workshop for all in the Decatur and DeKalb community in Clarkston on Nov. 15, and tabling at the Decatur Farmers Market and other community festivals. Please consider volunteering with the club at the above events by contacting Eleanor Hand at [eghand@bellsouth.net](mailto:eghand@bellsouth.net), Cecilia Harris at [ceciliaharris@gmail.com](mailto:ceciliaharris@gmail.com) or Ian Karra at [ian.karra@sierraclub.org](mailto:ian.karra@sierraclub.org). If you are a DeKalb County resident, install solar panels on your home, business or institution! You will contribute to the avoidance of Co2 added to our air and the movement towards 100% clean renewable energy, reduce electric bills AND support your Georgia Sierra Club! Check out the details of this program and sign up at [www.solarizedecatur-dekalb.com](http://www.solarizedecatur-dekalb.com). 🌱

# Will New EPD Director Restore Trust?

By Mark Woodall

Elections do matter. While there are many dedicated employees at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), it is the EPD director who makes the ultimate decisions on protection of Georgia's air and water. The governor selects the EPD director and appoints the members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) board. Gov. Deal's selection of Jud Turner as the EPD director produced the worst results in the history of the EPD. Turner served from January 2012 until June 1, 2016. Meanwhile, Gov. Deal has failed to appoint even one environmentalist to the DNR board.

Former EPD Director Turner is still on the state payroll working full time on the water wars. His replacement, Richard Dunn, is the former deputy director of the Georgia Office of Planning and Budget. Director Dunn has shown no interest in correcting the many outrageous acts of the previous director.

If the many infamous action taken by EPD Director Turner are to be reversed during the last two years of the Deal administration, it will be public pressure that does it. Here are a few of the most destructive actions against the public welfare and health taken by Director Turner:

- Issuing the 2014 EPD "Earth Day March Massacre" of all coastal buffers.
- Issuing the EPD policy wiping out all river and stream buffers except for those with "wrested vegetation."
- Authoring the EPD policy putting many of the rivers of Georgia into permanent regulatory drought, including cutting the flow target of the Chattahoochee at Peachtree Creek to 650 cubic feet per second (cfs) with further conspiracy to cut it to 550 cfs.
- Opposing renewal of the coastal county moratorium on Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) for the Floridan Aquifer.
- Opposing meaningful regulation of groundwater.
- Attempting to create a superior water right for the State of Georgia in Senate Bill 213, which amends the Flint River Drought Protection Act.
- Wasting millions of dollars on unneeded new reservoirs.
- Negotiating the water wars in complete secrecy.
- Failing to notify communities of contamination of monitoring wells such as that caused by Florida coal ash dumped at the Broadhurst landfill in Wayne County.
- Allowing all the remaining coal power plants to run with expired water permits or, in bureaucratic language, "administratively extended permits."
- Standing by while Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens

opposed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Mercury Rule, the EPA Clean Power Plan and the EPA Clean Water Plan.

- Standing by while the trust funds for tire and hazardous waste site cleanups were looted of millions of dollars allowing over 50 orphan hazardous waste sites to remain as ticking time bombs.
- Failing to do anything about the wet coal ash ponds operated by Georgia Power next to Georgia rivers and lakes.
- Committing acts of environmental injustice such as the permitting of the Sabal Trail compressor station in Albany.
- Allowing the regulations for concentrated animal feeding operations to be weakened.
- Renewing the permits for the proposed coal burning plant near Sandersville known as Plant Washington.
- Allowing the Rayonier discharge to ruin the lower Altamaha River.
- Suspending all work on the EPA Clean Power Plan. 🌲



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# Sea-Level Rise: It's Long Past Time to Act

By Karen Graine

The consensus that catastrophic damage can be avoided if global warming is capped at no more than 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial levels is starting to crumble. Global temperatures have already advanced 1 C, and a recent article in the journal *Science* estimates that sea-level rise will inevitably inundate more than 444,000 square miles of land where more than 375 million people currently reside.

Some of those people live on the 100-mile-long Georgia coast, which is already experiencing problems. Widely publicized photographs of the October 2015 king tide flooding of Route 80 leading from Savannah to Tybee Island was a wake-up call to coastal vulnerability--something Tybee residents and people who work in local governments in coastal communities knew and had already been wrestling with.

Route 80 floods quite frequently during high tides. It's not always high enough to warrant closing the road, but it's not easy or advisable to drive a car through several miles of saltwater. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calls these tidal flooding events "sunny day" or "nuisance" floods. In addition to flooding the only road to Tybee, these floods back up through the stormwater system, flooding city streets and yards with salt water--killing lawns and gardens.

NOAA has documented a long-term trend of increasing nuisance flooding on Tybee Island and the Savannah area as a clear consequence of rising seas. Compare the 4.8 average number of observed nuisance flood days in the four-year period 1956-60 to the 13.2 average number of such days during the period



*Flooding on Tybee Island in October 2015. Photo courtesy Georgia Sea Grant.*

2006-10 to see the dramatic increase. A "nuisance" flood in the Savannah/Tybee area is technically defined as when the tide gauge at Fort Pulaski reaches at least 5.2 feet above an established benchmark. This happened 23 times in 2015, more than any year since the gauge was installed in 1935.

There is no doubt that the transition from nuisance to catastrophe is coming and quite likely will happen much sooner than many planners think. Tybee is one of the first coastal cities to prepare a sea-level rise adaptation plan, but will it be adequate? Is it realistic to expect Tybee to be habitable 50 years from now? The plan assumes the conventional one-meter rise by 2100 scenario, which NOAA official Margaret Davidson and others have seriously called into question.

Davidson is a senior advisor for Coastal Inundation and Resilience Science and Services. Earlier this year when speaking to a conference of insurance

and risk management professionals, she noted that sea-level rise could be three meters by 2050-60. Until this astounding announcement, official projections had warned of a one-meter rise by 2100. The difference, she explained, is that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change takes so long to prepare and peer review their report, the computer-modeling projections are out of date by the time they're published. The important point she was trying to make to the insurance industry is that such reports cannot be relied upon when making expensive decisions regarding retrofitting existing or designing new coastal infrastructure.

Recent peer reviewed scientific research strongly indicates that Davidson is on the right track. Most notable is a paper published in *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* by a team of 19 climate scientists from the U.S., France, Germany and China led by the renowned James Hansen. The paper, titled "Ice

melt, sea level rise and superstorms: evidence from paleoclimate data, climate modeling, and modern observations that 2 °C global warming could be dangerous,” comes to the alarming conclusion that, due to amplifying feedback loops, ice melt is accelerating in a non-linear pattern – fast enough for sea-level to rise several meters in 50 to 150 years.

Another paper titled “Sea-level rise due to polar ice-sheet mass loss during past warm periods,” published in Science, indicates that the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere will cause an unavoidable six-meter rise even if we stopped emitting today. The open question from the perspective of analyzing the geologic record is how long it will take for this to happen.

Provisions of the Tybee plan include elevating Highway 80 and replac-

ing the Lazaretto Creek and Bull River Bridges, retrofitting stormwater systems with tidal backflow preventers, elevating municipal well pumps, and enhancing dune fields during future beach re-nourishment. Missing is any discussion of reducing greenhouse gases. Admittedly, one small barrier island community of 3,000 permanent residents cannot have a perceptible impact on emissions, but coastal communities have a role to play in lobbying the state and federal government and leading by example in a hostile political environment.

It should be noted that 34 states have adopted “climate action plans” – including most coastal states – yet Georgia is not among them. Scientific research is unveiling a bleak reality which calls for swift and decisive action. Instead, our state chose to be part of the lawsuit to

stop the Clean Power Plan.

On Nov. 2-3, there will be an opportunity to find out more about what our state is doing. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ Coastal Resources Division will be hosting a conference on Jekyll Island titled “Prepare, Respond, and Adapt: Is Georgia Climate Ready?” The cost is \$60. I plan to be there. Let me know if you want to join me.

Also, on Nov. 11 the Center for a Sustainable Coast will be screening the award-winning documentary film “Wisdom to Survive” at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. The film asks the important question, “What is keeping us from action?” and explores how unlimited growth and greed are destroying the life support system of the planet, the social fabric of society, and the lives of billions of people. 🌲



## Cut Clear Cutting

**Americans deserve clean air and water, healthy forests and a sustainable economy. In California alone, over a million acres of forested land are scheduled for clear-cut type logging. Clearcutting and loss of natural forests is harming water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism throughout the nation. Help the Sierra Club fight to replace clear cutting with sustainable logging.**

**Make the Cut & JOIN Sierra Club**

Georgia Sierran 🌲 October/November/December 2016

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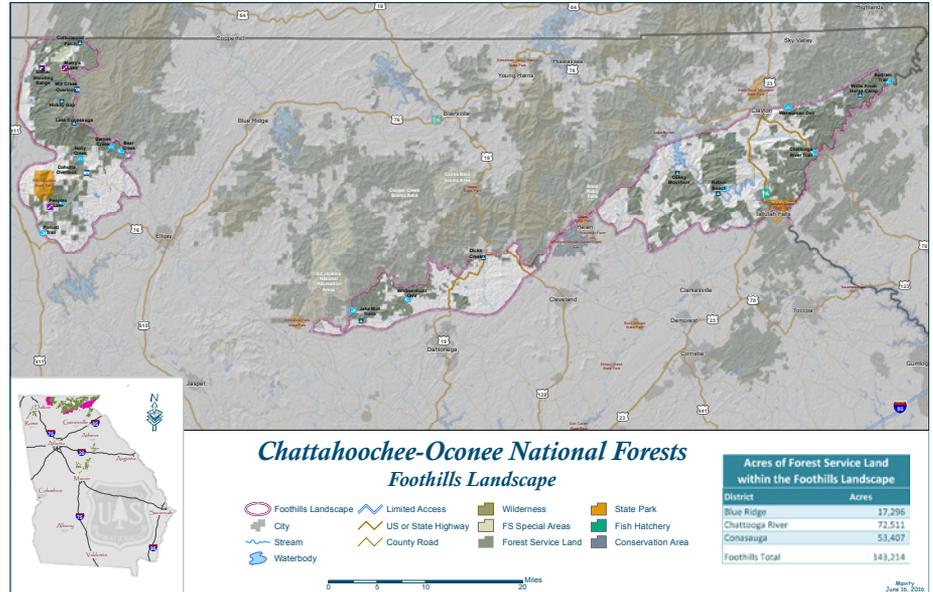
# Foothills Landscape Project Needs Your Input

By Jessica Morehead

This summer, the U.S. Forest Service began a collaborative planning process to address future projects within the Foothills Landscape, an area comprised of 143,419 acres at the base of the North Georgia Mountains. While the process started with small stakeholder meetings attended by Sierra Club leadership, this fall kicks off the first series of larger community conversations. The Forest Service is seeking your insight and input and has emphasized that these meetings are taking place prior to project scoping, scheduled for fall of 2017.

The Forest Service's website states that, "The purpose of [the Foothills Landscape] project is to create, restore and maintain ecosystems that are more resilient to natural disturbances. Specifically, the Forest Service is seeking to enhance and provide quality habitat for rare and declining species, as well as desired game and nongame species; to reduce hazardous fuel loading across the landscape to diminish damaging wild-fires; to improve soil and water quality; to provide sustainable recreation and access opportunities; and to awaken and strengthen a connection to these lands for all people."

We need your voice and attendance to make sure projects in the Foothills Landscape are in line with Sierra Club's mission to protect Georgia's forests. Please take a look at the list of meetings and join us! 🌲



## Attend a Meeting

**North Atlanta:**  
 Saturday, Oct. 29,  
 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
 Gwinnett Environmental  
 & Heritage Center  
 2020 Clean Water Drive  
 Buford, GA 30519

**Chatsworth:**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 16-9 p.m.  
 Cohutta Springs Conference Center  
 1175 Cohutta Springs Rd.  
 Crandall, GA 30711

## For More Information

**Visit the Forest Service website:**  
[tinyurl.com/  
 FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate](http://tinyurl.com/FoothillsLandscapeCollaborate)

**Forest Staff Officers:** Mike Brod,  
 (770) 297-3090 or [mbrod@fs.fed.us](mailto:mbrod@fs.fed.us)  
 and Judy Toppins, (770) 297-3061 or  
[jrtoppins@fs.fed.us](mailto:jrtoppins@fs.fed.us)

**Sierra Club:** Georgia Chapter Coordinator,  
 Jessica Morehead, 404-607-1262 or  
[jessica.morehead@sierra-club.org](mailto:jessica.morehead@sierra-club.org)



## Join Us for HemlockFest in November!

Each fall for the past 10 years the Georgia Chapter has supported the annual Hemlock festival in Dahlonega. We will do so again this year.

Hosted by the Lumpkin Coalition, the HemlockFest is held the first full weekend in November. The festival and its proceeds are used to increase public awareness of eastern and Carolina hemlock tree problems, especially the decline of these trees due to the woolly adelgid, and to provide financial support for area colleges and universities in their efforts to save the hemlocks. More information can be found here: <http://hemlockfest.org/>

The Georgia Chapter will have a table set up throughout the weekend, and we need your help! Sign up now for a short shift to help out with our table and spend the rest of your time enjoying good music, food and drinks in the outdoors, all for a good cause! Sign up to volunteer at <http://signup.com/go/QditJR>.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Marinangeles Gutierrez

By **Diondra Powers**

On a February morning in 2013, Marinangeles Gutierrez took a last-minute overnight trip that re-invigorated her passion for environmental issues and would resonate with her in the coming years.

She boarded a bus full of strangers headed from Georgia to her hometown of Washington, D.C. for the Forward on Climate Rally, which had a turnout of more than 35,000 people marching to support action against climate change. Despite not knowing anyone, she took the chance to meet a couple of people getting coffee that morning and found a welcoming community during that spontaneous weekday trip. “That march was just so empowering, and really influenced the work that I was going to do after,” Gutierrez said. “Just being in that space period—like, you don’t even have to talk to anybody—but the energy that vibrates off the people, it kind of leaves something on you.”

Gutierrez, now known to most in the Sierra Club as Mari, ran with that energy, finding a deep love of volunteerism and carving out a place for herself within Georgia’s environmental community.

While she has a background in business and longtime interest in environmental issues, the activist credits her cousin with introducing her to environmental issues first-hand. In college, Gutierrez assisted her cousin with translating and transcribing interviews from Nicaraguan farmers who were struggling with the effects of deforestation. Although she was well informed of the environmental issues where her parents grew up and where she spent childhood summers, the stories still hit home—hard.

“It wasn’t until I came to Atlanta that I was able to tap into that,” Gutierrez said. “I think that when we’re in college or university, so much is happening and so much self-discovery is happening that we’re kind of consumed with the life of college.” She moved to Atlanta from Miami in 2011, after graduating. “There are small steps, where you move to a city and don’t know anybody,” she said. “By chance, my neighbor was into environmental issues [and invited me to events] and it really just takes something so simple like that: Finding people who want to be engaged in the community and extending your hand...”

Gutierrez brings that same infectious energy and passion with her wherever she travels, eager to introduce newcomers to the wide range of events, protests and committees that the Sierra Club hosts. “Look for the opportunities that you believe in, and that you think are impactful,” she said. “I think a lot of times people think that certain ways aren’t fast enough, or that people aren’t listening. This year, I had an opportunity to speak at the Southern Company shareholders meeting, and



that’s something that our Smart Energy Solutions Committee does every year. ... I think that was one of the greater opportunities, because when you talk about someone not listening to you—that opportunity right there, that one action that we do, is definitely an opportunity where the CEO of a company is looking straight at you and listening to you.”

“I think some people get caught up in not knowing where to start or what it is they have a passion for,” Gutierrez said. “Trial-and-error is the best thing. ... I would say step one: Get involved. Go to something fun first, maybe, like the Sierra Club and Beer - great opening event. It’s comfortable, you learn, they do trivia, there’s a really diverse crowd that comes from all kinds of backgrounds, all kinds of ages.”

She is now an At-Large Member of the Executive Committee, recently became Fundraising Chair and is an active participant of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program. She regularly attends committee meetings for Smart Energy Solutions and the Wildlands & Wildlife Committee. She was part of the hiring committee for a new Chapter Director. As if the many Sierra Club hats she dons aren’t enough to keep her heart happy, Gutierrez also lends her talents to Amnesty International.

“I know a lot of people don’t have the time to dedicate to specific issues, but I tell everyone ‘you should go to at least one march, one protest, and if you feel that you got nothing from that energy, then that would baffle me,’” Gutierrez said. “Because I don’t know a single person who can go to something like that and not feel inspired, and not have a sense of hope, and feel like something is achievable here.” 🌱

# Growing the Environmental Movement

## 2017 Activist Training Series Aims to Build Next Generation of Leaders



Ian Karra, Organizing Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign, leads a recent activist training at the Chapter office in Decatur.

In the Sierra Club, we define “grassroots organizing” as the process of identifying, training and empowering large numbers of citizen activists to get involved in the political struggle to protect America’s environment.

The following excerpt is from the Sierra Club’s newly updated Movement Organizing Manual:

*After more than a century of unrestrained carbon pollution, decades of warnings, and escalating real-world consequences, humanity is running out of time to take meaningful action to stop climate disruption. And if we do drop the ball, we’ll have no excuses to offer posterity.*

*The same scientists who say that we must start cutting carbon emissions right now to avoid catastrophic climate change have also made it clear that our ability to succeed is limited—not by technology, resources, or economics—but by our own resolve to take action.*

*That resolve, though, is not something that can be marshalled by any single individual, institution or government. Instead, it requires a powerful, inclusive movement that transcends personal or political agendas. The basic message has not changed since the*

*groundbreaking People’s Climate March that took place in New York City on November 29, 2014: “To change everything, we need everyone.”*

*So, how do we get everyone? We begin by broadening and deepening our understanding of movement-building. Although the Sierra Club has run successful environmental campaigns for more than 100 years, that legacy alone does not enable us to meet the present challenge.*

*Not only must we master the technologies and media of the 21st century, but we also must reach out to engage people who historically have been excluded from the environmental movement.*

That’s why this year, Georgia Chapter Assistant Director Brionté McCorkle and Beyond Coal Organizer Ian Karra came together to offer the Activist Training Series. Over the course of four trainings, participants engaged in discussion and activities on power, strategy and movement building. The participants were able to take the skills they learned and apply them directly through volunteering with the Chapter’s issue committees. Below is a brief description of each training and its outcomes.

## Training #1 - Introduction to Activism

There are two sources of power in the political process: money and people. Since we will never be able to match the financial resources of our opponents, the Sierra Club must garner its power through recruiting, training and empowering citizens. Our power is derived from our ability to organize the public on behalf of the change and solutions we are promoting and exert influence over decision makers to create the conditions that lead to change – to move beyond a reliance on dirty fossil fuels to a clean energy economy, to promote green transportation systems and better protections for people and places impacted by the effects of climate change.

*Participants will leave this training ready to:*

- Articulate your personal stake in combating threats to our environment
- Understand the influence of big, organized money and how people can come together to challenge these oppressive forces and build a just, sustainable society
- Identify as members of the environmental movement

## Training #2 - Power: How to Build It, How to Use It

Campaigns are by definition focused on an outcome – on achieving a visionary goal that will be a real, concrete change from the status quo. We take campaign planning seriously in the Sierra Club. The reasons we take it seriously include: (1) it is our roadmap to success; (2) it lays out expectations, makes assignments and deadlines; (3) it is a process that involves key “stakeholders” in our effort, ensuring their input and buy in; and (4) it gives us a way to define and measure our success so that we can learn from what we do and be more and more successful over time. Achieving a long-term vision may take decades. Campaigns need to estimate and project how progress will be made step by step to reach short- and medium-term milestones.

*Participants will leave this training ready to:*

- Create very clear, measurable campaign goals and outcomes
- Accurately identify campaign targets (who has the power to grant your goals) and a strategy to influence them
- Determine which tactics will engage large numbers of people in organized ways to put pressure on targets to grant your demands

## Training #3 - #Squad Goals: Building Your Team

To be an effective organizer, you must always remember that, first and foremost, it is about people. Organizing is based on relationships and creating mutual commitments to work together. Relationship building goes far beyond delivering a message, extracting a contribution or soliciting a vote. Relationships built as a result of one-on-one meetings and small group meetings create the foundation of local campaign teams, rooted in commitments people make to each other, not simply an idea, task or issue. Structured leadership teams encourage stability, motivation, creativity and accountability – and use volunteer time, skills and effort effectively.

*Participants will leave this training ready to:*

- Use your talents and skills to become active, productive members on Georgia Chapter issue committees and other Chapter teams
- Understand how to build team structures that are effective
- Recruit other volunteers to participate in organizing activities, and potentially join an issue committee or other team

## Training #4 - All Hands on Deck: Building an Inclusive Movement

The Sierra Club is working towards a just future, not just for the natural environment, but also for the people who live within it. Involving citizen activists in the political process has always been our strength – a strength we cannot take for granted. We must make an effort to recruit people who reflect the full diversity of the communities in which we are working. This will be increasingly true as the demographics of the country continue to reflect a more racially and economically diverse population. We can only succeed through strong and collaborative relationships with diverse organizations and communities based on common goals and values. Join us to learn how to foster the inclusive and powerful movement necessary to win victories that benefit everyone.

*Participants will leave this training ready to:*

- Define the terms Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and understand why this work is important to the Club
- Develop a more intentional and inclusive outreach plan through thorough community mapping
- Identify practices for initiating and developing effective partnerships with new communities

Check our website for the 2017 Activist Training Series schedule by Jan. 1 at:  
[www.sierraclub.org/georgia/activist-training-series](http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/activist-training-series)

## Goats on Parade and More!

### Recent Events, Meetings and Outings



**Rosewood Goat Farm Open House, Sept. 10.** We joined Cobb Parks Coalition to introduce the public to this potential park bond property and recruit support for the purchase of Cobb County parks and greenspace. For more information see Centennial Sierra Club's Facebook page or CobbParksCoalition.org.

**Cold Politics in a Warming World, Sept. 1.** Group meeting presentation by Dr. Gus Cochran of Agnes Scott College. Several general election candidates and some Life College students were guests.

**Adopt-A-Mile, Sept. 23.** Regular cleanup of our adopted stretch on Lower Roswell Road, "The Rushway," led by Angie Netterville (followed by margaritas and eats). We'll schedule one more cleanup this year. Join us!

### Upcoming Meetings

**Nov. 3 - My Wonderful Adventure: Biking the Great Allegheny Passage in Maryland and Pennsylvania** (Life University). Metro Atlanta Group member Gordon Draves searched for his roots in 2015 and 2016 on this 150-mile trek along the Great Allegheny Passage, a rails-to-trails corridor for biking and hiking from Cumberland, Maryland to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Gordon will recap his special trip.

**Dec. 1 - Our annual Holiday Auction and Potluck Dinner** (Avery Gallery, 390 Roswell St., Marietta 30062). Join us, bring a dish to share, and please donate new (or gently used) and desirable auction items for our major fundraiser of the year.



**East Cobber Parade & Festival.** On Sept. 17, we marched, tabled and promoted Sierra Club issues at this annual fall event.

**Sustainability and Environmental Justice: What Matters and What Next?** On Oct. 6 our group meeting featured a panel discussion and community conversation regarding these important issues.

**Late Summer Outings.** With hot summer weather, we managed a few outings of late, including Kennesaw Mountain, Sawnee Mountain, Bartram Trail and the Chattahoochee River. Thanks to Outings Chair Lee Graham for recruiting and mentoring new leaders and encouraging environmental activism through outings. We hope to add more leaders and diverse outings this fall and in 2017.

### Upcoming Outings

**Oct. 23 - Hike the Appalachian Trail to Blood Mountain** from Lake Winfield Scott. Details/sign up at <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>.

**Nov. 12 - Arkaquah Trail** from Track Rock Gap to Brasstown Bald. Hike some of the highest ridges in Georgia to Brasstown Bald, the highest mountain in Georgia. Details/sign up at: Arkaquah Trail Hike. For other chapter outings, see <http://georgia.sierraclub.org/outings>.

- **Betty Harris and Lynn Walston**

## Recent Meetings

**July:** Jannah Goodell introduced the origins and work of Decatur Team for Action (DTFA), and we discussed opportunities with DTFA and other local organizations to assist with voter registration. Also, Derwin Davis spoke about the Yellow River Trail project in Gwinnett, Rockdale and Newton counties.

**August:** Marc Bennett and Beyond Coal Campaign organizer Ian Karra presented Solarize Decatur-DeKalb, a new program that uses bulk purchasing to lower the cost of photovoltaic solar panels on homes and other buildings.

**September:** We did not have a regular meeting this month. Instead, several volunteers built a “bug house” (part insect habitat, part art project) for display at the Fernbank Museum’s new WildWoods outdoor experience.

## Get Out the Vote!



■ Check your Georgia “My Voter Page” at the Secretary of State’s website to make sure your registration info is up to date, to find your polling place, and see your sample ballot in order to be prepared for informed decisions on important votes up and down the ballot!

■ City of Atlanta voters will get to decide on two measures that can improve how we get around and enjoy our city! Please check Sierra Club’s Georgia website for information on the TSPLOST and the long-term MARTA expansion measure.

■ Due to legal restrictions, Sierra Club as an entity cannot register voters. However, if you want to connect with other local organizations to help with voter registration, outreach and turnout, please contact Executive Committee Member Nina at [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com).

For more information, directions, and updates please see [www.sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta](http://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta)

## Adopt-a-Stream at Medlock Park

The next monitoring date is Saturday, Dec. 17 10-11 a.m. for chemical monitoring and 10 a.m.-12 p.m. for biological monitoring. For information about chemical monitoring dates, call Larry Kloet at 404-636-7226. For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie at 404-256-1172. If you are interested in helping with chemical monitoring in October or November, please contact Larry Kloet.

## Get Involved!

■ Are you passionate about pollinators? A booster for bees? The Georgia Chapter Wildlands & Wildlife Committee needs you! Contact Jessica Morehead, chapter coordinator, at [jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org](mailto:jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org) or 404-607-1262.

■ We’re looking for a treasurer and a webmaster! Interested? Contact Executive Committee Member Nina at [nddutton@gmail.com](mailto:nddutton@gmail.com).

■ Have ideas for outings or future featured speakers? What local environmental issues are on your mind? Contact Nina at the email address above.

## Reach Out and Keep Up with What’s New!

■ Sign up for email updates in the short form on the right-hand side of our webpage at <http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta>.

■ Get the latest info on events and action opportunities at our webpage or on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/sierraclubATL](https://www.facebook.com/sierraclubATL)).

■ Find petitions and events for national and local Sierra Club campaigns at [AddUp.org](http://AddUp.org) (which is searchable by zip code).

- **Nina Dutton**

*The Metro Atlanta Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic. Recently we have been meeting at the Georgia Chapter office, at 743 E. College Ave. Suite B, Decatur, Georgia 30030. Please join us.*

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SierraClubATL](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubATL)

# Partnership with LaGrange College Picks Up

During the nine years the LaGrange group has been an active part of the Sierra Club, our relationship with LaGrange College has had its ebbs and flows. But once again, we have a Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) at LaGrange College.

Back in 2007, soon after we formed our group, student Jessica Shaver formed an SSC for a year or two until she graduated and moved on. Being a very motivated and environmentally conscientious young woman, Jessica organized a forum on alternative energy which was open to college students and to the community to attend. She also rallied a fraternity and her sorority to participate in our Trees for Tots project.

Several years later Reese Hight served as a local executive committee board member, and Angela Hutchins attended the rally/parade in Atlanta for the Clean Power Plan. These and other students have enjoyed kayaking, biking and hiking outings as well.

Last year senior Andrea Richard was our shining star. Thanks to Andrea,



we have a professional display board for tabling events. In addition, Andrea engaged in organizing a tabling event at the college during Earth Week and helped give a PowerPoint presentation to an environmental science class at Point University.

This year we are blessed again with a student who is passionate about protecting our planet. Jake Krzysiak, a LaGrange College Servant Scholar who

has chosen to serve as an intern with the LaGrange Sierra Club, is stepping up to the plate to motivate other students to join in service projects, enjoy outings and hopefully become activists as well. He has reactivated the Sierra Club Coalition at the college as a vehicle for getting students engaged in our vital work (and play).

**- Laura Breyfogle**

## Greater Gwinnett Group

I write this just as the autumnal equinox has passed. Thus, I want to believe autumn is really here, as the evenings are cooler and the days are in the upper 80s or lower 90s - a welcome improvement over a month ago. The older I get, the more the heat disagrees with me so I look forward to being able to be outside for extended periods!

One of the outside activities the Gwinnett group has done is to help a resident determine the acidity of the stream that runs through his property.

Michael Hallen took water samples and is doing extensive tests on the samples. Not only has this helped hone our skills, but it was very satisfying helping a homeowner determine the health of his stream. Of course, we still have our regular Adopt-A-Stream monitoring program in place as well.

In September we helped to sponsor a Transit Forum with speakers including Gwinnett transportation activist Art Sheldon and other political and technical specialists. We appreci-

ate State Representative Pedro (Pete) Marin attending and providing his valuable political insight. As we move into the fall season, we look forward to programs involving transit, clean energy and neighborhood environments. Our meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at Brookwood High School with a social period beginning at 7 p.m. and our programs beginning at 7:30.

**- Dan Friedman**

## Savannah River Group



Our summer picnic is one of the favorite get togethers for members and friends, and it was a delightful surprise to have Georgia Chapter Director Ted Terry join us. The 100+ degrees didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits, especially since we could go for a splash!

Savannah River Group (SRG) has committed to a community project to help the Savannah Riverkeeper. The Savannah Riverkeeper moved their office to an area where the grounds had been used for dumping garbage, builders' waste materials and contaminants. The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring that the top two feet of soil be removed from the contaminated areas, which means the garbage will be removed along with the soil. In the uncontaminated areas there is no requirement to remove the garbage and that's where SRG will work, clearing the garbage and removing invasive plants. You may ask, what is to prevent anyone from continuing to dump garbage on the site? The Riverkeeper insisted, and the city agreed, to block access to the areas by installing locked gates so that garbage is no longer accumulating in the area. Kudos and much gratitude to Judy Gordon, botanist and former SRG co-chair, who volunteered hundreds of hours identifying the various plants and trees so that only the invasive ones will be removed.

By now most people are tired of the political noise, but here's something to feel good about: Our own SRG member, Tim Nelken, is running for Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation district chair. Tim is very active in our group as an outings leader, member of the executive committee, chair of the Adopt-A-Highway program, and volunteer with Adopt-A-Stream. He also volunteers with the Phinizy Center for Water Sciences (aka the Swamp) and leads bike rides for them. Never one to be idle, Tim fashions dragonflies out of copper wire and metals that he makes in sizes as small as one inch and as large as whatever your wallet can handle! Good luck, Tim, on election day!

- Linda McBurney

## Atlanta ICO

### Atlanta ICO Visits Sweetwater Creek Park



On Saturday, August 14, Atlanta Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) took 8 kids from the Dresden Tutoring group on a hike around Sweetwater Creek State Park. The kids had never been to the park before so they had a great time seeing the ruins and playing on the rocks.

We roamed around the visitor center for a while checking out the stuffed animals and then the snake exhibit. The kids had never seen a real snake so up close and personal. Pictured above is a volunteer explaining to the kids how snakes shed their skin.

We then hiked to the ruins and found a great spot to take a dunk in the creek. The kids, and the adults, had a great time.

For more reports, visit the ICO blog at [atlantaico.blogspot.com](http://atlantaico.blogspot.com)

### About Atlanta ICO

Formerly known as Atlanta Inner City Outings, Sierra Club Inspiring Connections Outdoors is a community outreach program providing opportunities for urban youth and adults to explore, enjoy and protect the natural world. The goal of the Atlanta ICO program is to help these young people discover the beauty of wild places, to foster an appreciation for nature, and to help them acquire the necessary skills to enjoy these places safely. To learn more or to get involved, please visit [www.atlantaico.org](http://www.atlantaico.org) or email [atlantaico@gmail.com](mailto:atlantaico@gmail.com).

# Chapter Contacts

## Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

Karen Grainey, karengrainey@bellsouth.net  
*Coastal Group Delegate*

Marinangeles Gutierrez, 786-683-1565,  
mari.advocates@mni.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

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

Linda McBurney, 706-631-1489,  
msmcb@outlook.com  
*Savannah River Group Delegate*

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

Ellen Parkhurst, 706-442-1278,  
ellen\_parkhurst@yahoo.com  
*LaGrange Group Delegate*

Ankush Patel, 678-296-0677,  
ankushpatel67@gmail.com  
*Centennial Group Delegate*

Jeffrey Schoenberg, 404-312-6929,  
schoenbergjhe@gmail.com  
*At-Large Elected Member*

Diane Shearer, 404-388-1217,  
djshearer@bellsouth.net  
*At-Large Elected Member*

## Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 19 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:** Larry Winslett,  
winfog@windstream.net

**Conservation Vice Chair:** Alan Toney,  
mudflat@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Eddie Ehlert, edehkert@bellsouth.net

**Treasurer:** Tom Neff, tsneff2003@yahoo.com

**Finance Chair:** Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

**Fundraising Chair:** *vacant*

**Human Resources Chair:** *vacant*

**Legislative Chair:** Mark Woodall,  
woodallmark8@gmail.com

**Litigation Chair:** Norman Slawsky,  
nslawsky@gmail.com

**Membership Co-Chairs:** Lindsay Crumpton,  
lcrumpton1@gmail.com and Sharon Soucek,  
soucek.sharon@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editors:** Diane Shearer and Tanya  
Frazee, gasierran@gmail.com

**Outings Chair:** Sammy Padgett,  
sammypadgett@comcast.net

**Political Chair:** Eddie Ehlert,  
edehkert@bellsouth.net

**Webmaster:** Charlotte Gardner,  
ga\_sierra\_webmaster@yahoo.com

## Issue Campaigns and Contacts

**Clean Air:** Dale Kemmerick,  
dalekemm@comcast.net

**Coastal Issues:** Karen Grainey,  
karengrainey@bellsouth.net

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

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

• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,  
sam.collier3@gmail.com

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

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

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

**Population:** Todd Daniel,  
todddan@mac.com

**Recycling:** Lori Blank, lblank@hotmail.com

**Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL):**  
*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:** Ian Karra,  
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

• **Natural Gas:** *vacant*

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

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

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

## Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream:

Sam Booher, sbooher@aol.com

## Wildlands and Wildlife:

*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:

Ted Terry, 404-607-1262 x224,  
ted.terry@sierraclub.org

### Assistant Chapter Director:

Brianté McCorkle, 404-607-1262 x232,  
brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

### Chapter Coordinator:

Jessica Morehead, 404-607-1262 x221,  
jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org

## National Staff

### Beyond Coal Organizing Representative:

Ian Karra, 404-607-1262 x233,  
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

### Southeast Military Veterans & Outdoors

**Coordinator:** Lornett Vestal, 404-607-1262 x222,  
lornett.vestal@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://www.sierraclub.org/georgia/get-involved>.

## Centennial Group

*Serving Cobb, Cherokee & North Fulton*

**Chair/Meetings Contact:** Lynn Walston, [lynnwalston22@yahoo.com](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com)

**Outings Chair:** Lee Graham, [leegrah3@gmail.com](mailto:leegrah3@gmail.com), 404-202-9065

**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](mailto:lynnwalston22@yahoo.com).

## Coastal Group

*Serving Savannah & surrounding counties*

**Chair:** Karen Graine, [karengraine@bellsouth.net](mailto:karengraine@bellsouth.net)

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

**Conservation Chair:** Art Sheldon, [asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org](mailto:asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org)

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

**Meetings:** 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m., Berkmar High School, 405 Pleasant Hill Road, Lilburn.

## LaGrange Group

*Serving the LaGrange area*

**Chair:** Laura Breyfogle, [breyfogle@charter.net](mailto:breyfogle@charter.net)

**Conservation Chair:** Sim Blitch, [simblich@charter.net](mailto:simblich@charter.net)

**Outings Chair:** Joanna Baxter, [joannabbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto:joannabbaxter@yahoo.com)

**Meetings:** 3rd Tuesday; 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:** Konrad Hayashi, [rainingatl@gmail.com](mailto:rainingatl@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Denise LaSonde, [deniselasonde@gmail.com](mailto:deniselasonde@gmail.com)

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

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Decatur Public Library, 215 Sycamore St.

## Savannah River Group

*Serving Augusta & surrounding areas*

**Co-Chair:** Linda McBurney, [mismcb@outlook.com](mailto:mismcb@outlook.com)

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

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

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

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

## Regional Contacts

### LeConte Group/Athens & North-east Georgia

Terry Jones, [wolpers4@aol.com](mailto:wolpers4@aol.com)

### Forsyth County

Jim Callison, [callisonjim@bellsouth.net](mailto:callisonjim@bellsouth.net)

### Macon

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

### North Georgia

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

### Valdosta

Brian Day, [bjday@valdosta.edu](mailto:bjday@valdosta.edu)

## Looking for a group near your home?

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



## Georgia Chapter Office

743 East College Ave., Suite B  
Decatur, Georgia 30030  
404-607-1262 • FAX: 404-876-5260  
[georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
<http://georgia.sierraclub.org>

## Directions to take MARTA to the Sierra Club office:

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

## Stay Informed!

### SIERRA CLUB WEB SITES

GA Chapter Web Site:

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

GA Chapter Outings:

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

### EMAIL LISTS

Subscribe to a Georgia Chapter email list. Just send an email to:

[LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG)

Your message should read:

SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)

GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)

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

Subscribe to the Smart Energy Solutions listserv at: [gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com](mailto:gasmartenergycommittee@googlegroups.com)

Subscribe to Georgia Chapter Online E-Newsletter at: [http://action.sierraclub.org/CHP\\_GA\\_Signup](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.

# Chapter & Group Elections

## CHAPTER AND GROUP ELECTIONS

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## Georgia Chapter Executive Committee Candidates

### Katie Ryan

*Location: Atlanta*  
*Sierra Club Member Since 2016*



About 6 years ago I gave up My first hands-on experience with sustainable initiatives was during my time at Georgia College and State University, where I created a program that brought sustainable healthy food options to underserved communities in Milledgeville. By fostering lasting partnerships between GCSU faculty and students, and the local agriculture community, the program has remained successful since its creation six years ago.

After college I worked with Gwinnett County Parks and Recreation and eventually landed in the real estate industry where I'm currently working with a local private equity firm, Lucror Resources, focusing on urban reuse projects in Atlanta. My role in downtown's redevelopment has afforded me the opportunity to become involved in a number of local organizations, such as Central Atlanta Progress, where I've been an active participant in initiatives such as the steering committee for the Woodruff Park revitalization.

I was first introduced to the Sierra Club through a close friend, Ian Karra. After coming along to a few meet ups, I knew this was a group I wished to devote more time to. Now that I have reached a point in my career that I can dedicate more of myself to advocating for sustainable initiatives, I am thrilled at the prospect of bringing this passion and my expertise to the Georgia Chapter's ExCom.

### William Tomlin

*Location: Atlanta*  
*Sierra Club Member Since 2013*



Thank you for taking the time to let me introduce myself and to explain why I would be a good choice to help our chapter continue to explore, enjoy and protect our environment as a member of the Executive Committee.

I have the experience and skills to support our staff and volunteers in their work to promote the energy, land management and transportation policies that our state needs. I have volunteered with the Wildlands & Wildlife Committee for three years, including serving as chair, and during that time, we fought to protect Cooper Creek, urging the Forest Service to consider climate change in their planning, and accomplished many other goals. We proved, as the Sierra Club has proven for generations, that public pressure works. Both the Forest Service and the Georgia Department of Transportation dropped plans to build destructive roads, one in the Upper Warwoman watershed and one east of Waycross, citing public pressure, after the committee submitted written comments in opposition. The committee built relationships with allied organizations, and I represented the club before Environmental Protection Division hearings and Department of Natural Resources board meetings. This spring, we launched a campaign to protect pollinators.

I currently practice environmental law and labor law, and I have experience in environmental justice, communications and fundraising. I want to see the club continue its success protecting our environment and responding to climate change in a way that is open to and supports anyone who wants to help. Please, consider giving me your vote, and, please, get in touch.

### William Anderson

*Location: Atlanta*  
*Sierra Club Member Since 2016*



I am Communications Manager for the City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability. Raised in Atlanta, I started my career on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. as an aide to Congressman John Lewis and later served as Senior Policy

## Chapter & Group Elections

Adviser to Congressman David Scott. I recently came back home to Georgia to be closer to family.

I hope to assist the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club in maximizing its impact and influence. I want to protect the natural resources and scenic beauty of our great state so that future Georgians can appreciate the splendor bestowed upon us. I've spent years engaging with policymakers at primarily the federal level, though also state and local.

In addition to helping draft policy, I've worked on multiple campaigns in Georgia, Virginia and Connecticut. I'm a 2007 graduate of Wesleyan University, who enjoys biking, hiking with dog(s), and I'm also a 2015 repeat Jeopardy! champion. #whoisWillAnderson

### Seth Gunning

*Location: Roswell  
Sierra Club Member Since  
2011*



I am a 30-something environmental and social justice advocate raised in metro Atlanta. After earning a degree in anthropology and sociology from Valdosta State University, I dedicated my professional life to serving people and organizing to protect the planet. I have worked with the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy to build the climate movement in the Southeast and with the Presbyterian Church (USA) to eliminate food insecurity and spur economic development in traditionally marginalized communities. I was also honored to serve as the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal organizer in Georgia until 2014. In that role, I had the privilege of working with our chapter's members to end the development of new coal plants in Georgia, push regulators to approve Georgia Power's first large solar energy program, and pass the historic Clean Power Plan to protect the climate. In my spare time, I am exploring our planet and have spent much of the past few years backpacking, climbing and paddling on our magnificent public lands. I am currently building a wood-working business in the metro Atlanta area, which seeks to support efforts to protect our fragile forests.

As an ExCom member I will work to support the sustainable growth of chapter fundraising in order to win our ambitious conservation goals. I will also work to support the implementation of the Club's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals to ensure our chapter fully represents and is represented in all Georgia communities.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create an Environmental Legacy.



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

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

For more info and confidential assistance, contact:

**Sierra Club  
Gift Planning Program**

85 Second Street, Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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

## Chapter & Group Elections

### Centennial Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Steven Bell

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I have been a member of Sierra Club since my graduate student days at UGA in Athens 1974, thanks to the mentoring of Roger Buerki.

My leadership positions include two terms as the President of Rodeph Sholom Synagogue, Chair of the Psychology Department of Berry College, head coach of the Rome Middle School soccer team, and Ex Comm Secretary of the Centennial Group. I helped institute city-wide recycling programs in Athens and Rome, Georgia. I would like to serve on our ExCom to help facilitate our goals as a Group and Chapter.

#### Connie Dassinger

---

I have been a member the Sierra Club for several years. I serve as an outings leader and love to hike and do so any chance I can. I am very concerned about the environment. It is our duty to protect our home and make the world livable for our descendants. I feel that the Sierra Club is an important and worthwhile organization. I would like to increase my involvement by serving on this committee.

#### Linda Bell

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It has been an honor (and fun!) to be on the Centennial Executive Committee for the past two years, and I would be pleased to continue. Though my husband and I have been long time members of Sierra Club, we were unable to participate in a group until we retired three years ago and moved from Rome, Georgia to Mableton, Georgia. Our primary reason for moving was to be more involved in our two granddaughters' lives. I think we must be creating future environmentalists since the three-year-old will no longer allow me to remove spider webs from our house "because it's their home!"

I am the Legislative/Political Chair of our Centennial group as well as being on the Chapter Political Committee. In this area, the work I am proudest of is helping to re-invigorate the 2008 Parks Bond issue. This began as a Centennial effort with several of us visiting each Cobb County Commissioner, hoping to convince one to take this on with the Commission as a whole. While this did not happen, we did receive valuable ideas as to how to pro-

ceed. The Cobb County Parks Coalition was then formed and others have joined in the effort. While we have not yet met our goal of having the Bond fully funded, it is now a major topic in the news and one which has likely influenced recent elections.

#### Andrea Searles

---

I was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. I attended the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and earned a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management. I have worked in the construction industry for over 25 years. My interest and concern in the community began early in my professional career. I have traveled the East Coast working as a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Operator. My work has given me the opportunity to visit cities and improve their infrastructures. In every city I have lived in, participating with the citizens and trying to improve lives has been my goal. I contend that to improve your community you must be active in the community, and I live my life accordingly.

I am the past Sewer System Superintendent II for Fulton County Government. During my tenure there I helped reduce sanitary sewer spill and worked to improve processes and accountability.

I am affiliated with the following organizations: Georgia Community Coalition (GCC), Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), Chattahoochee Riverkeepers, HABESHA Urban Gardeners, Turner Chapel AME Church, Sierra Club.

I am a recent member of the Sierra Club, but I have supported Sierra Club activities for years. I look forward to supporting Sierra Club's goals and objectives in the future.

Find Your Local Chapter Outings @  
<http://sierraclub.org/georgia/outings>



## Chapter & Group Elections

### LaGrange Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Mary Lou Dabbs

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I've been a Sierra Club member since 2002 and have been active in outings and events like West Point Lake clean-up work days. More recently I have worked with local community members to encourage and facilitate the beginning of curbside recycling in the city of LaGrange. My special interests are gardening, environmental sustainability and everything outdoors. Previous volunteer experience includes 20+ years with Literacy Volunteers of America, and various roles at St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

#### Sim Blitch

---

I have been a Sierra Club member for four and a half years, serving on the LaGrange executive committee for the past four years as conservation chair. My father always told me it was important that we leave the earth better than we found it, and I strive to do that. In my retirement, I became an organic gardener, selling organic fruits and vegetables weekly in LaGrange. I have hired a number of kids, teens and young adults to assist in this gardening endeavor, and they thereby learn a bit about organic gardening themselves. My partner and I live in a small historic church that was converted into our home, which we share for fall parties with our local Sierra Club group.

#### Laura Breyfogle

---

I have served on the executive committee of the Sierra Club Group of LaGrange for the past six years with the following responsibilities: recycling committee chair, treasurer, outings leader and chair. I have a passion for both exploring and protecting the planet and love spending time with others who share this passion!

#### Kathryn Scholl

---

I moved from Euharlee, Georgia to LaGrange about two years ago to take the position of Digital Program Coordinator with the Troup-Harris Regional Library. I got involved with Sierra Club within a few months. I enjoy going on outings, especially hiking and paddling. My degree is in Outdoor and Therapeutic Recreation and previously I worked in year-round camping and taught environmental education. My past volunteer experiences include

serving on the board of the Etowah chapter of Thrivent, as a Brownie leader, and with medical clinics with Ameri-Haitian Bon Zami.

### Greater Gwinnett Group Executive Committee Candidates

#### Thomas Yun

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I began working with environmental justice groups in Chicago, IL, when I lived in a neighborhood that was routinely blanketed in noxious fumes from the local ingot smelting factory. I joined the Sierra Club in 2013 in California after visiting Yosemite and becoming a big admirer of John Muir. I moved back to Georgia in 2014 and am interested in helping the Sierra Club however I can.

#### Michael Hallen

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I have been an active member of the Sierra Club Gwinnett Group for over twenty years and as a member of National Sierra Club for more years than I remember.

Since January 2009 I have been lead monitor for Gwinnett County Sierra Club Adopt-A-Stream monitoring program and have been actively involved with the Beyond Coal campaign and Transportation committees of the Georgia Chapter.

#### Gloria Hallen

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I have been a member of the Sierra Club Gwinnett group for over twenty years. I have also been an active member with Beyond Coal and transportation committees.



# Voting Instructions

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

## Chapter Voting

All members of the Georgia Chapter may vote for up to **three** (3) Chapter candidates and complete the ballot on page 23. You will find the Chapter candidate statements on pages 18-19.

## Group Voting

You may also vote in **one** of the group elections. You will find the group candidate statements for the Centennial, LaGrange and Greater Gwinnett groups on pages 20-21.

Not all groups are using the Georgia Sierran for their election ballots. If your group is not listed, please contact your group leadership (see contacts on page

17) to inquire about your group Executive Committee election.

## Joint Membership Voting

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

## Complete Your Ballot

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

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

## Mail or Deliver Your Ballot

Your ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on November 17, 2016. Mail to: Georgia Sierra Club Elections, 743-C

East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030.

## Questions?

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

## Ballot Verification and Counting

The ballots will be verified and counted by the Elections Committee, on Thursday, November 17, in the Georgia Chapter office at 743-C East College Ave., Decatur, GA 30030 (at the corner of Sams Street and East College Ave., across from the Avondale MARTA station). Ballot verification will begin at 6:30 p.m. Ballot counting will begin following ballot verification. Candidates may observe ballot verification and/or counting, or send a representative to do so.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

*Make a gesture that lasts a lifetime.*



A Sierra Club Life Membership is a gesture on behalf of all life - from our oceans to our forests, and from the tiniest insect to the largest sequoia. As a Sierra Club Life Member, you'll be helping to support programs and campaigns that protect endangered species and preserve threatened wilderness areas (and all the life that they support) - not only for today, but for decades to come.

*Make a really grand gesture.*  
Become a Sierra Club Life Member.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

***I am pleased to enroll as a Life Member of the Sierra Club.***

Please enroll me as an individual Life Member.

- Full payment of \$1000 is enclosed.
- \$350 first annual installment is enclosed.

We are enrolling as joint Life Members.

- Full payment of \$1250 is enclosed.
- \$450 first annual installment is enclosed.

Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my:  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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.

**Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,**  
P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041  
**or visit our website [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)**

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## Outings & Events

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

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

### **Arkaquah Trail: Track Rock Gap to Brasstown Bald**

**Time:** 9 a.m. (tentative)

**Leader:** Lee Graham, [leegrah3@gmail.com](mailto:leegrah3@gmail.com)

**Presented by:** Centennial Group

**Rated:** Strenuous

**Description:** This route begins at the Track Rock Gap Archaeological Area and climbs on some of the highest ridges in Georgia, with mountain views on both sides of the trail. We'll follow these high ridges all the way to the top of Brasstown Bald, the highest point in Georgia. We'll eat lunch with 360 degree views at the observation area on top of Brasstown Bald then hike back down to Track Rock Gap. Strenuous - 6.5 hours hiking with 0.5 hour lunch. 11.6 miles round-trip. Total Elevation gain: 3252 ft. Limit: 8. Register with Lee Graham at: [leegrah3@gmail.com](mailto:leegrah3@gmail.com).



**On the Cover:** *Environmental advocates gather at the Georgia State Capitol in August 2015 in support of President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Elections do matter -- be a Climate Voter! (Photo by Erik Voss)*

Save the Date for...

## Sierra Club's Holiday Soiree

Monday, December 5th, 2016 at 5:00pm

Location to be announced

### **About Georgia Sierran**

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

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

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