



Sierran

To Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

Taking It To the Streets

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Now We Hit the Streets

The first 100 days of resistance have been invigorating to say the least. Over the last four months, hundreds of thousands of ordinary Georgians marched, emailed, signed petitions and flooded switch boards in defense of our planet and people. We made our voices and bodies heard loud and seen clearly. We will not go backwards. Too much is at stake for not only our immediate future of breathable air and drinkable, swimmable, fishable water, but the threats to our children and grandchildren's planet.

Will we allow them to inherit a climate that is more toxic, hotter and colder, and oceans devoid of life? Will we allow their generation to be saddled with the massive fiscal costs of responding to climate change? Will we allow anti-environmental politicians to sacrifice long term sustainable communities for short term fossil fuel profits?

The time to take the resistance to the next level is now. Starting this year, the Georgia Chapter will launch our Ready for 100 campaign in the streets of Atlanta. You can learn all about the campaign at sierraclub.org/readyfor100.

We know that Atlanta is ready for a 100 percent clean energy future and we are building power to get the conversation started on planning that future. For the next twelve months we will take our message directly to the residents of the City of Atlanta, to every neighborhood



Ted Terry, Chapter Director

and every door.

Our message is simple. The technology and the timing for clean energy have arrived. Not only will planning for a 100 percent clean energy future help save our planet, but it will help save our economy. Creating tens of thousands of new jobs, and saving consumers money on their power and fuel bills. We are asking the residents of Atlanta, our friends, neighbors and fellow business leaders to add their name and voice to this movement.

Together we can be a critical mass of support to tip the balance towards a clean energy future for the Empire City of the South. Atlanta has always been a leader in the South. On Civil and Hu-

man Rights on Trade and Commerce, and now we can lead the way on Clean Energy. Will you join us?

P. S.—don't live in Atlanta, but support the Ready for 100 idea for your city? We still need you! Our campaign toolkit has all the resources you will ever need to launch a Ready for 100 movement in your city or county. The Georgia Chapter will be here to support you along the way, but we need committed volunteers to take the initiative at the local level. Together we will move Georgia forward, not backwards. 🌱

Changes Underway at the *Sierran*

Longtime readers may have noticed something new with last quarter's issue of the *Sierran*—full color printing! We hope that this change helps bring the Chapter's work to life in a fresh, vivid way. In addition, look for a new and more modern layout later this year. As always, we welcome your feedback; contact the editors at gasierran@gmail.com.

On this issue's cover: *Sierrans take to the streets of Washington D.C. for the People's Climate March in April. Photograph by Chris Mastin (www.chrismastinphoto.com).*

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



Did you know that the Georgia Chapter spends roughly six 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.

Amidst Difficult Session at Capitol, Victories on Solar and Pipelines

By Mark Woodall

The Georgia Legislature ended its 2017 session Friday morning, March 31, shortly before 1 a.m. We had a few notable successes in a very acrimonious session. The acrimony seems to have been caused by the jockeying for advantage by the many candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the 2018 elections.

For the past 15 years, Sierra Club has worked closely with the rest of the Georgia Water Coalition on bills related to water. In 2017, the Georgia Water Coalition legislative work including pipelines, fracking, coal ash, stream buffers, shore protection, and storm water.

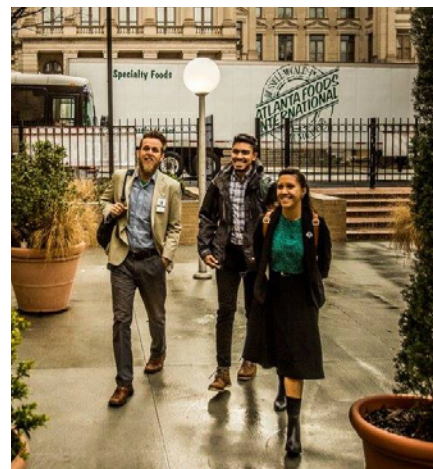
In spite of bitter opposition from Kinder Morgan and Big Oil, H.B. 413 passed. H.B. 413 is a strong bill protecting property rights and clean water from petroleum product pipelines. As no pipeline can be started until the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and Department of Transportation adopt regulations, the June 30 expiration of our moratorium continues. Go to www.legis.ga.gov for the text of bills.

A couple of small steps forward were taken to promote solar power, H.B.

238 and H.B. 428. H.B. 238 removes a barrier to large scale solar facilities by limiting the property tax penalties paid by landowners for removal of land from farm and forest current use value covenants. Now that the Governor has signed H.B. 238, only the land used for solar facilities will be subject to penalty instead of the entire parcel. H.B. 428 allows downtown development authorities to more easily sell bonds for solar projects.

H.B. 205, the fracking regulation bill, failed at the last minute but remains in a committee of conference until the 2018 session. The coal ash package failed to move but the Georgia EPD agreed to increase public notice of dewatering and dumping of coal ash in private landfills. As usual, a lot of our time was spent preventing rollbacks such as H.B. 271, the shore destruction act.

This year is the first of a two-year session, so much work remains on pending bills which continue on to the 2018 session. These include the shore bill, H.B. 271, now being studied by the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Stream buffer confusion caused by a 2015 court decision will hopefully be addressed by a study committee created



Chapter Director Ted Terry, Conservation Organizer Ian Karra, and Chapter Executive Committee member Marinangeles Gutierrez enter the State Capitol for 2017 Conservation Day. Photo by Erik Voss.

by S.R. 152. Transit advocates will want to keep a close watch on the regional transit governance study committee created by H.R. 848.

Many thanks to all those who came to Capitol Conservation Day and those who contacted their legislators whether at the Capitol or from home. Thanks to Brionte McCorkle for getting out electronic alerts. Thanks to our contract lobbyist Neill Herring for another year of outstanding service. 🌲

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?



Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today

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Georgians Trek to Washington for Climate March



Photos by Chris Mastin (www.chrismastinphoto.com)



Following a rousing send-off rally at Mammal Gallery in downtown Atlanta, three buses of climate activists made the long journey up to Washington, DC for the People's Climate March. Organizers planned the for President Trump's 100th day in office; in the short time since inauguration, Trump has already taken destructive actions toward health and the environment, including signing executive orders to roll back regulations that had protected clean water and public lands.

The march lineup highlighted the many contingents of the environmental and climate justice movement, and the diverse ways in which we activists have come to approach these issues. The procession began with communities of indigenous peoples and others living at the front lines of the effects of climate disruption, and then continued on with young people, elders, workers, researchers, faith communities, and various other groups, with long-established environmental organizations such as Sierra Club chapters bringing up the rear.

As the marchers at the very front were encircling the White House, we were passing the US Capitol, with Sierra Club Georgia Chapter solidly leading the crowd with several catchy chants. According to the march organizers' estimates, we were among 200,000 climate activists filling Pennsylvania Avenue on that hot, sunny day. The next step, of course, is to roll with the momentum from this huge march and continue to inclusively collaborate and organize. Onward!

- Nina Dutton



Atlanta Commits to 100 Percent Renewable Energy



On May 1st, Atlanta became the 27th city in the country to commit to transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy. This follows strides made in recent years by the city of Atlanta and the state of Georgia in expanding renewable energy like solar.

According to the Department of Energy, solar makes up the largest share of Georgia energy generation jobs, with 5,261 people employed in Georgia's clean energy sector, compared with 2,535 across all fossil-fuel industries. According to Environment America, the City of Atlanta ranks 40th out of the 50 most populous U.S. cities in the total amount of solar installed.

Last summer, the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) approved Georgia Power Company's latest long-term energy plan. The final plan—agreed to through a settlement agreement between the utility, commission staff, and several other parties, including the Sierra Club—represented the largest increase in renewable energy ever in Georgia.

The Sierra Club urged the Georgia Public Service Commission to require local utility Georgia Power to expand their proposed Renewable Energy Development Initiative. Initially, Georgia Power proposed to add just 525 new megawatts of wind and solar between by 2020. The final plan tripled that amount up to 1,600 megawatts of new renewable energy, mostly solar, by 2021.

The Atlanta City Council unanimously approved a measure introduced by Councilman Kwanza Hall that establishes a community-wide goal of transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy by 2035. Former Chapter Director Colleen Kiernan, now Policy Director for Councilman Hall, played a key role in crafting the legislation. The resolution directs the Atlanta Office of Sustainability to develop a plan by January 2018 to meet the 100 percent renewable energy goal across all city operations by 2025 and community-wide by 2035.

"We know that moving to clean energy will create good jobs, clean up our air and water and lower our residents' utility bills," said Councilman Hall. "We have to set an ambitious goal or we're never going to get there." Atlanta represents the first city in Georgia and the largest Southern city to commit to 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

"Just days after hundreds of thousands marched for climate action across the globe, city leaders here in Atlanta are answering the call," said Ted Terry, Georgia Chapter Director. "Cities like Atlanta must lead the way in confronting the threat of climate change and accelerating the transition to 100 percent clean energy. We look forward to working with our partners and city leaders to realize this vision of an Atlanta powered by 100 percent clean, renewable energy." 🌱

What is Ready for 100?

Sierra Club's **Ready for 100** campaign is challenging 100 cities across the United States to set a target of 100 percent clean energy.

The move to 100 percent clean energy in the United States must begin in cities. More than half the world's population lives in urban areas. By 2050 cities will likely be bursting with two-thirds of the people on the planet. Since urban areas already account for an estimated 76 percent of CO2 emissions from energy use—and many are vulnerable to flooding and higher temperatures—many city officials are taking on climate change.

Studies show that it is possible to eliminate fossil fuels across the globe by the year 2050. Other studies, which focus on the United States, show it is technologically and economically possible to achieve 100 percent clean energy across the country by 2050 or even sooner. To avoid the worst of climate change, it's absolutely necessary to do so as quickly as possible.

Numerous U.S. cities have made public commitments to cut carbon and address climate change through initiatives like the Compact of Mayors. Building on this history of climate leadership, we are asking cities to begin the transition to 100 percent clean energy. By adopting such a target, leaders can set a new bar—not only for climate leadership—but as proof that they prioritize people's health and well being over the lure of special interests.

Find out what your city is doing to make clean energy and all of its benefits—jobs, low costs, cleaner air and water, and greater energy choice—more accessible to you and your community.

More information, please visit:
www.sierraclub.org/ready-for-100

Cumberland Island Faces Continuing Development Threat

By Seth Gunning and William Tomlin

A recent move by the Camden County Board of County Commissioners could open Cumberland Island to development by a handful of elite property owners, including heirs of Coca-Cola founder Asa Candler.

Matt Smith reported in the last Georgia *Sierran* on a request by Lumar LLC, a company owned by the Candler heirs, for a hardship variance that would allow the Candlers to subdivide and develop 10 homes on 88-acres of the pristine island located directly adjacent to the National Park Service's "Sea Camp". The Camden County Planning Commission approved the variance in December despite receiving hundreds of letters and public comments in opposition.

Responding to the variance approval, Eleven-thousand Sierra Club supporters from around the nation sent in messages to County Commissioners urging them to overturn the variance decision. The Southern Environmental Law Center, representing both local and national conservation groups, filed a formal appeal from the Planning Commission's decision with the Board of County Commissioners.

The Board was set to make a final decision on the variance in February. Instead the Board extended the appeal by 60-days to allow for a reexamination of the zoning for all 1,000 acres of privately held land on the Island, a move that could allow hundreds of homes to be built on Cumberland.

Cumberland Island is a Georgia treasure cherished by people across the nation. The largest and most biodiverse of Georgia's barrier islands, the island is home to the Cumberland Island National Seashore, a unit of the National Park Service that includes federally designated wilderness, and several distinct ecosystems including delicate sand dunes, salt marsh, and maritime forest. Cumberland Island is also one of the last



remnant stretches of wild coastline anywhere on the southern Atlantic coast and the last barrier island of significant size that has not been substantially developed or crisscrossed with roads. The barrier islands stretch from New Jersey to South Beach in Miami, Florida before picking up again on Florida's Gulf Coast and reaching all the way to the US-Mexico Border. For its unique and significant importance to coastal diversity, United Nations honored Cumberland Island in 1986 by including it as part of the greater

Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve.

Privately held land on Cumberland Island is currently zoned "conservation preservation," a designation that ensures protection for wildlife refuges and areas that "possess great natural beauty, are of historical or ecological significance, are utilized for recreational purposes or provide needed open spaces for the health and general welfare of the county's inhabitants." This zoning designation is ideal for land bordering a National Seashore and Wilderness Area on a delicate and ecologically-diverse barrier island.

Any rezoning would devastate Cumberland's precious ecological balance and the experiences of the nearly eighty-thousand annual visitors who come from around the world to experience one of the east coast's last wildernesses. Sea Camp, the main campground on Cumberland, sits adjacent to the Candler property, and new development on Cumberland would defeat the National Park Service's goal of eventually obtaining and preserving the entire island for the enjoyment of all Americans.

Your national seashore needs your voice in order to remain wild. Camden County Commissioners need to hear from Georgians from around the state who oppose new private development on one of our coast's last remaining wild islands. 🌲

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Cumberland Island

WRITE: Letters to the editors of local and national papers

CALL: Share your message with Camden County Officials: Don't Develop Cumberland Island!

- Lannie Brant, District 1 Commissioner: (912) 552-4246
- Chuck Clark, District 2 Commissioner: (912) 674-8791
- Jimmy Starline, District 3 Commissioner: (912) 882-5691
- Gary Blount, District 4 Commissioner: (912) 882-2211
- Ben Casey, District 5 Commissioner: (912) 552-4703
- Eric Landon, County Planning Director: (912) 729-5603

ATTEND: Join the Sierra Club's Coastal Group in St. Marys, Georgia on June 24 for the **Rally for Cumberland Island**

- **Where:** Howard Gilman Waterfront Park, St. Mary's
- **When:** Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- *Free t-shirts for the first 400 attendees, music, face-painting, information booths, and food trucks!*

JOIN AND SHARE: Connect with us on social mMedia:

- Join us at www.facebook.com/SaveCumberlandIsland
- Use hashtag #SaveCumberlandIsland

Membership

Save the Date for the Chapter Gathering: Oct. 20-22



Photo by TCR-III / Wikimedia Commons

2017 Chapter Gathering October 20-22 Amicalola Falls State Park

When we gather this year for our biennial Georgia Chapter Gathering, we will continue our rich tradition of visiting some of Georgia's iconic places and inviting some special guests to join us. Past destinations have included Cumberland Island, the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge, Jekyll Island, the and the Co-hutta Wilderness. We've also welcomed a number of distinguished guests and

speakers, including Congressman John Lewis, author Janisse Ray, naturalist Carol Ruckdeschel, and Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.

We have also sampled a variety of entertainment (including contra bands & dancing, drum circles, and bluegrass singers) and outings (including paddling, rafting, hiking). We hope you can join us this October at Amicalola Falls!

Volunteers Wanted!

Join the Chapter Gathering Steering Committee and help us plan a memorable event in the north Georgia mountains this fall. We are building a dedicated group of volunteers to plan another successful retreat and we need YOU!

Who we need: We're looking for individuals with skill and experience in event planning, media & marketing, outings, fundraising, & more.

What we need: Must be able to meet or call in every 2-4 weeks through October and help out during the event.

Sign up here: <http://bit.ly/2q0ty3f>

Want to contribute in a different way?
Email Jessica Morehead at jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org



Juliette Beck

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

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Address _____
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Phone _____
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☐ 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	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
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"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

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

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

Georgia Giving Society of 2016

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 of 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 are the supporters who donated at the Live Oak Champion, Longleaf Pine Protector, Southern Magnolia Society, Evergreen Partner, and Wildlife Guardian levels in 2016. If you would like to join or renew for 2017 please contact Ted Terry at 404-607-1262 x224. Your support is much appreciated.

Live Oak Champions

\$5,000+

Carey & Doug Benham	Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Sam & Laurie Booher	William & Gertrude Wardlaw
Charles & Mary Bosserman	Mark Woodall
Chris Klaus	

Longleaf Pine Protectors

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Lee Adrean	Mitchell Jacoby
Martha & Tom Black	Jason Konzelmann
Christine Carroll	Margaret Reiser
EarthShare of Georgia	Martin Rosenman & Angie Netterville
David Emory	Midge & John Sweet
Rex Fuqua	Joni Winston
Debbie & Steve Gill	

Southern Magnolia Society

\$500 - \$999

Robert & Stephanie Benfield	Scott & Michelle Kregler
Eddie Ehler	Gary & Maria Ludi
Seth Gunning	Steve Oppenheimer
Scott & Carol James	Norman Slawsky & Marcia Abrams
Cynthia Jeness	Zolinda Stoneman
Jennifer & Bill Kaduck	Pamela Woodley
Colleen Kiernan	

Evergreen Partners

\$100 - \$499

Robert Allegrucci & Lori Sims
Debbie Armstrong & Wesley Jeffares
Mirza & Sunita Balic
Jeanne Barsanti
Lynn & Michael Beach
Steven Beach
Riddick Beebe
Linda & Steven Bell
Sally Bethea
Daniel Bevan
Felicia Bianchi
Lori Blank
Samuel & Laura Breyfogle
Pam Bridges
Carl Buice
Catherine Butler
James & Tyra Byers
Jim Callison & Tamara McClelland
Ruth & Loren Carter Jr
Catherine Carter
Dorothy & Sheldon Cohen
Dorothy & Sheldon Cohen Family Fund
Sam Collier
Ralph Connell
Charles Cook
Price & Rogenia Cordle
Cathy Cortright
James Darby
Mike & Peggy Dobbins
Dobbins Foundation
Theodore & Lynda Doll

Continued on next page

Support Your Chapter

Evergreen Partners

(continued from previous page)

Deborah Donovan
Nina Dutton
George & Mary Dyer
Francine Dykes & Richard Delay
Bruce & Day Ann Emory
Senator Vincent Fort
Paul & Meera Garcia
Mamatha Gavini
Eric Geissinger
Jannah Goodell & Konrad Hayashi
Patricia Griffin
Mari Gutierrez
Arthur Hagar
Earline Ham
Camille Hammond
Eleanor Hand
Robert & Carolyn Hargrove
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Henry Kahn & Mickey Gillmor
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Wildlife Guardians

Monthly Sustainers

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Hugh Crawford
Diana Day
Jake Hager
Catherine Henderson
Scot Hollonbeck
Sarah Isburgh
Maureen Kreimer
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Jeffrey Luther
David Marcus
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Linda P. Vinal
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Cassandra Webster
Sami Wilson
Reality Winer
Cassandra Webster
Sami Wilson
Reality Winer

Thank You to Georgia Giving Society of 2016!

Recent Meeting Reports

Our speaker for **March** was Berneta Haynes of consumer advocacy organization Georgia Watch (and formerly of Southern Environmental Law Center), who discussed with us Construction Work In Progress (CWIP), news on nuclear power in our state (Georgia Power is putting new nuclear on hold in Stewart County for now!), and the economic justice argument for greater access to energy efficiency and solar programs. Then, Sierra Club Georgia Chapter's own legislative expert Mark Woodall provided a quick update on key bills as the state legislative session was coming to a close.

In **April**, we heard from Yeou-Rong Jih, Resilient Atlanta project manager with the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, who introduced the city's sustainability projects and the Resilient Atlanta project. The city of Atlanta recently won 2 years of funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, through the 100 Cities project, to fund a Chief Resilience Officer (currently Stephanie Stuckey-Benfield) to lead the resilience program.

The Office of Sustainability is transitioning into an office of resilience, carrying on with sustainability projects in clean energy, water conservation, urban agriculture, and more, while also forming a city resilience plan to deal with ongoing vulnerabilities such as housing access and transportation, and prepare for climate change, emergencies, and other changes. Public input will be sought for the plan, so stay tuned for opportunities to comment.

In **May**, our speaker was Aubrey Daniels, co-founder of Concrete Jungle, an Atlanta-based organization that forages fruit and grows vegetables on its farm in town to provide nutritious food to people who are food insecure or are experiencing homelessness. We heard about the many benefits of trees in cities such as ours, the magnitude of hunger and malnutrition issues in our area, the array of fruits that grow here, and Concrete Jungle's approach to fight food waste, hunger, and disconnection from food production all at once. For more information on what they do and how to volunteer: <http://concrete-jungle.org>

Take Action on #ReadyFor100

Big news: the Atlanta City Council voted unanimously on May 1 to set a goal for Atlanta to run on 100% renewable energy by 2035! (See full story on page 5.)

We suggest writing a quick note to Atlanta city council members to say thank you for taking this necessary and important step. Then, write to mayoral candidates (all, or just your preferred ones) to ask if they are committed to this goal, what they will do to help the city achieve it, and how they plan to leverage the transition to benefit Atlanta's residents.

Adopt-A-Stream Program

Our Adopt-a-stream activities involve Peachtree Creek in Medlock Park. For biological monitoring, we need many eyes to find the macroinvertebrate critters found in the creek.

The next chance to get your feet wet - figuratively or literally! - on a day with both biological and chemical monitoring is June 17, from 10am to 12 noon. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 to 11am, and biological monitoring will take the full hours.

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. Detailed directions are available at <http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/adopt-stream-program>

Get Involved!

Want to pitch in by keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Would you like to join our political committee, which decides on which local political candidates to endorse? Or would you like to lead outings, or perhaps help plan the Georgia Chapter retreat or other events? Please email our chair, Nina Dutton, at nddutton@gmail.com.

Stay Up to Date

- If you don't get our monthly meeting announcements, sign up for email updates through the Georgia Chapter website (<http://sierraclub.org/georgia>) and be sure to include your Atlanta-area zipcode.
- Visit our webpage at <http://sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta>
- Join us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/sierraclubatl>

The Metro Atlanta Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Typically our meetings feature a speaker on a timely topic. Then, we present info on how to take action on important issues. Recently we have been meeting at the Georgia Chapter office, at 743 E. College Ave. Suite B, Decatur, GA, 30030, but the location is subject to change. Please join us at 7pm to socialize and 7:30pm for the program!

Our executive committee meetings are open and held on the first Tuesday of the month (Athens Pizza, 7:30pm). Contact Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail.com) for details.

Centennial Blast From the Past

November 1992: Centennial Group Is Alive and Well...

We're almost one year old; it has been exciting and rewarding to those who helped organize the Centennial Group, and your response has been gratifying. As the newest group of the Georgia Chapter of the Sierra Club, we are already one of the largest groups in the state, numbering approximately 800 members. During 1992, we had speakers from such organizations as Southface Energy Institute, U.S. EPA, Foundation for Global Community, Cobb County/Marietta Water Authority, Georgia Wildlife Federation, and Chattahoochee Nature Center. This being an election year, we also heard from several candidates for local and national office, and are eager to learn the fate of those we endorsed ... Looking forward to our potluck picnic at 2 pm on Sunday, 11/08/92 at Rottenwood Creek (Bob Fletcher to discuss impacts of proposed Kennedy Interchange) ... We need your involvement. Our future and our children's future is up to us... An exciting year, but we've only just begun!

- Centennial Newsletter cover story published in first year of operation, 1992

As the Sierra Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary, the Centennial Group turns 25 years old this year. We recently asked a few of our "Pioneer" members (e.g. Donna Parker-Kirk, Bob Fletcher, Roger Buerki, etc.), for comments and they had lots of insight. Stay tuned! We will share some of their "story-corps" reflections in the next few months. We also hope to hold a special celebration picnic later this year at our original adopted Rottenwood Creek site, as we resume regular monitoring and cleanup with new volunteers.

Meanwhile, Our Busy Year Continues...

In February we participated in and supported several Black History month events with the Cobb NAACP.



We welcomed March 2nd guest speakers for presentation about Sierra Club outing programs: Lornett Vestal (SC Military outings); Terri Lyde (SC national & ICO outings); Lee Thomas (SC International outings); Lee Graham (National Park hikes and tips), plus an audience of 44.

On March 4th, we sponsored Outing Leader Training (OLT) and Basic First Aid with eleven students from the metro area. Special thanks to Lee Graham, Cathi Neel, Bob Springfield, and Linda Sealey for teaching a top-notch class; and to REI in Kennesaw for hosting us. We bid a special farewell to outing leader and instructor Linda Sealey who retires next month and relocates. We will miss Linda, but hope she returns often for visits and hiking.



We enjoyed several hikes in February and March including a favorite from Amicalola Lodge to Hike Inn, and will continue with a busy spring season. See: Georgia Sierra Club Outings Calendar



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SRG Looks Back Over Three Decades of Service

The Savannah River Group (SRG) was started in 1981 by Dr. Judy Gordon and Gene Weeks. Dr. Gordon has served in every position of the SRG and continues to be active in the Group as well as the community. Mr. Weeks left the area many years ago.

Initially SRG was financed and sponsored by the South Carolina Chapter because there was no Georgia Chapter. When Georgia began to organize, they were initially part of the Georgia/Alabama Chapter. After Georgia became a separate chapter then SRG belonged to both Georgia & South Carolina Chapters and served on both ExComs.

Because we couldn't keep up with both Chapters - there were too many environmental problems to cover both states - SRG voted to belong to the Georgia Chapter only. The North Augusta members stayed with SRG but the Aiken members were assigned to the Columbia, S.C., Group. Later, the South Carolina Chapter asked SRG to assist them in building an Aiken Group, which they did, but it eventually dissolved. In 2016, SRG was asked again to help build an Aiken Group. The new Aiken Group is active with varied and interesting programs.

SRG has worked on a variety of issues since its beginning. Some early projects that we focused on included:

Augusta Canal and the Augusta Shoals

In the early 1980s, the City of Augusta wanted to construct an additional hydro project on the Canal. SRG was the official intervener against the City on this project and the State of So. Carolina later joined because both were concerned about the loss of sufficient water in the Augusta Shoals which would have had disastrous effects on the fish and other critters, especially during droughts. Together we were successful in stopping this project.

In 1991 SRG leaders, Judy Gordon and Sam Booher, and a few other citizens learned that the City planned extensive commercial development of the canal, including a large golf course, hotel, hydroelectric plant, etc. They formed the organization, Savannah Waterways Forum, to oppose these plans which would have undesirable and potentially negative environmental effects on both the Canal and the Augusta Shoals. Because of dam construction on the Savannah River the Augusta shoals is the last remaining shoals in the river, and is especially important for protecting the shoals spider lily and anadromous fish species such as short-nosed sturgeon which spawn in the shoals. Thanks to their efforts the Augusta Canal is now a National Heritage Area and, on Nov. 5, 2016, the SRG joined the Canal Authority in holding a celebration of its 20th anniversary.

L-Reactor at Savannah River Site

In the early 1980s, we testified at a national hearing conducted by then Senator Strom Thurmond and a US Senate Committee meeting in North Augusta, S.C. We hoped to stop the restart of the L-reactor at SRS because it was unnecessary and also because of threats to nearby endangered Wood Stork feeding areas. By a stroke of luck, Dr. Judy Gordon had learned that the endangered Wood Stork foraged in these areas but no one else, including the Savannah River Ecology Lab, was willing to bring this up at the hearings. The South Carolina state agencies didn't even know about the Wood Stork.

Because of Dr. Gordon, SRG won a partial battle in that mitigation lands were required to off-set the loss of feeding areas to the Wood Stork. The restart of the reactor was approved anyway but it only operated for a few short months before being closed down. Also, for the first time the State of South Carolina was given permission to do some environmental monitoring at the SRS site. The Atlanta newspapers had great fun recording the proceedings and published some delightful cartoons featuring the Wood Stork.

Trail Ridge

In 1996, DuPont had plans to mine Trail Ridge for titanium. Trail Ridge, a sandy ridge on the east side of the Okefenokee Swamp, prevents the Okefenokee from draining directly into the Atlantic. SRG got involved and, along with others, was successful in preventing DuPont from mining the ridge and creating the potential for significantly weakening the retention of the Okefenokee Swamp waters. The result was that DuPont gave up their mineral rights and donated the 16,000 acres to The Conservation Fund, and in 2005 about 7,000 acres was transferred to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

CAFOs

Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) are a major issue in Georgia. In the early 2000's SRG member, Thomas Black, became the lead activist for getting state legislation on CAFOs. He worked closely with SRG leaders, GA Chapter, Greenlaw and others. Their efforts resulted in passage of significant legislation to regulate CAFOs.

Savannah River Group, continued on next page

Savannah River Group

Mercury and E. coli

Dr. Frank Carl, SRG's Conservation Chair and Richmond County's Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator, has been instrumental in two different contaminations in the Savannah River.

For several years Frank had worked with local high school students on their science projects. In 2006, he was with high schooler, Lauren Smith, taking water samples from the Savannah River. Ms. Smith wanted a challenging project so Dr. Carl suggested she sample for mercury near a chlor-alkali plant that used the antiquated mercury method to manufacture chlorine. As a result of her samplings and Charles Jagoe's testing the samples, it was discovered that Olin Corporation had contaminated the Savannah River with mercury. As a result of this finding, Ms. Smith won a national science fair award and she, along with Dr. Carl and Dr. Jagoe, published a paper on the mercury contamination which is available at www.gwri.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/files/docs/2007/7.4.4.pdf.

Since 2009, the Ironman has been held in Augusta. Before the start of a race it was discovered that there was an E. coli contamination in the Savannah River. The Sports Council contacted Dr. Carl who tested the waters until it became safe for the swimmers. Since then Dr. Carl has been called on to test for E. coli before each Ironman.

To quote Dr. Gordon regarding SRG's efforts, "The fun never ends!"

**- Linda McBurney, Judy Gordon
Sam Booher, and Frank Carl**

Greater Gwinnett Group

Tons of fun. Excuse the old phrasing but the last two months have been fun. The height, of course, was our Earth Day event held in Lilburn. We had four bands providing music from funk and blues to folk to Americana to 80s music. Everyone found something they liked. The kiddie corner for young children to old, uh, older people enjoying the sunshine. The dozens of people attending listened to good music and heard an environmental message. It was a great way to enjoy an Earth Day afternoon. A special thanks to Thomas Yun who put it all together.

We had our monthly stream monitoring lead by Michael Hallen with a strong core of volunteers who dependably ensure that our stream is safe. Jerry Hightower, that the park service stalwart, gave another informative presentation about the Chattahoochee National Recreation Area. Our May meeting focused on EVs (electric vehicles)—what to know about them and what to look out for.

- Dan Friedman

LaGrange Group

Finding Kindred Spirits

Becoming part of a Sierra Club group means more than the learning you gain from meetings, the fun you have on outings, and the feeling of accomplishment you feel when cleaning up a lakeside or roadside,



monitoring water quality or marching for climate action and protection of our water, air and wildlands. All those dividends gained from participating in Sierra Club activities are positive reasons for becoming involved, but how about all the rich friendships made with others who share common ground? Perhaps they, like you, like spending time outside hiking and paddling. Maybe they, like you, are eager to be activists and protect our natural world. Also it's often a relief and energizing to find others who agree wholeheartedly with your politics! Whatever the reason, Sierra Club is a great place to find kindred spirits—the friends who are real keepers! So please join us!

- Laura Breyfogle

Upcoming Meeting & Events

Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Farm Tour with Farm to Table Lunch

A farm tour at the Bugg Farm in Harris County will end with a lunch under the shade of large oaks. Grass-fed beef sliders, salads, and seasonal fruits and vegetables available from local farms is planned. Suggested cost per person will be \$10 (maybe less, depending on cost to farmers). Directions and additional info will be provided. We will need reservations. Email joannabbaxter@yahoo.com to express your interest and/or make a reservation.

Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Party at Lake Martin

Our annual summer party at Lake Martin will include a covered dish cookout lunch, swimming, kayaking, zip line, lawn games and opportunity to wander through an extraordinary garden. Lake Martin is 90 minutes West of LaGrange on the Tallapoosa River.

Anyone who wishes to join us should contact Laura Breyfogle at breyfogle@gmail.com to RSVP and she will give you directions.

Chapter Contacts

Executive Committee

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

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At-Large Elected Member

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William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com
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LaGrange Group Delegate

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Litigation Chair: *vacant*

Membership Chair: *vacant*

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• **Marine Species/Habitat:** Karen Graine,
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• **Okefenokee Swamp:** Sam Collier,
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• **Savannah Port:** Steve Willis,
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Factory Farms: *vacant*

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Recycling: *vacant*

Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL):
*Contact Brionte McCorkle at 404-607-1262 x232 or
brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org for details*

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

• **Media Outreach:** Ian Karra,
ian.karra@sierraclub.org

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

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

• **Southern Company:** Sam Collier,
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• **Wind:** Eleanor Hand, eghand@bellsouth.net

Water Sentinels/Adopt-a-Stream:
Alan Toney, mudflat@comcast.net

Wildlands and Wildlife:
*Contact Jessica Morehead, 404-607-1262 x221,
jessica.morehead@sierraclub.org for details.*

• **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area:**
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• **Cumberland Island:** Eric Meyer,
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• **Endangered Species:** Larry Winslett,
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• **National Forests:** Tom MacMillan,
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• **Rivers and Wetlands:** Larry Winslett,
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• **State Lands/Georgia DNR:** John Eberhart,
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National Staff

Beyond Coal Organizing Representative:
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**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.

Chapter ExCom Meeting

The next Chapter Executive Committee meeting
will be Saturday, March 18 at the Chapter office
in Decatur. Meetings are open to the member-
ship. For more information, call the Chapter office
at 404-607-1262 x221.

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

Outings Chair: Lee Graham, 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.

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 Road, Lilburn.

LaGrange Group

Serving the LaGrange area

Chair: Laura Breyfogle, breyfogle@charter.net

Conservation Chair: Sim Blitch, simblitch@charter.net

Outings Chair: Joanna Baxter, 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

Co-Chair: Denise LaSonde, deniselasonde@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Martin McConaughy, 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, mmscb@outlook.com

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

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Contact Ted Terry at ted.terry@sierraclub.org for upcoming events

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Macon

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North Georgia

Larry Winslett, winfog@windstream.net

Valdosta

Brian Day, bjday@valdosta.edu

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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

Your message should read:
SUBSCRIBE LISTNAME FIRSTNAME LASTNAME

LIST NAMES:

GA-OUTINGS (chapter outings list)
GA-NEWSLETTER-ANNOUNCE (online newsletter updates)
GA-RAIL-NEWS (RAIL/Transit Advocacy Committee)

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

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

Visit the 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.

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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 or to register for an outing, please visit our outings calendar at:

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

Upcoming Chapter and Group Outings

Saturday, June 3rd: Deep Step Kayak Paddle

Join us and paddle the little traveled back waters of the Savannah River above the Stevens Creek Dam called Deep Step. Presented by Savannah River Group, led by Lawrence Komp (larrkomp@gmail.com).

Saturday, June 17th: High and Cool - Appalachian Trail over Siler Bald, Winespring Mountain, and Wayah Bald

Figure eight hike on the Appalachian Trail from 4,200-foot Wayah Gap, just west of Franklin, NC, including ascents of Siler Bald (5216 ft), Winespring Mountain (5460 ft.), and Wayah Bald (5350 ft.). Total distance of 12 miles with elevation gain of about 3000 ft.; approximately 6 hours plus lunch. Presented by Centennial Group, led by Lee Graham (Leegrah3@gmail.com).

Saturday, June 24th: Augusta Canal Bicycle Ride

Join us for a great bike ride along the canal and Savannah river then we explore a bit of downtown Augusta where we break for lunch on a Broad street eatery, then ride back. This is a moderate ride of about 18 to 20 miles. Presented by Savannah River Group, led by Dawn Gavigan (dgavigan@live.com).



**657 E. Lake Dr.
Decatur, GA
404-373-1999**

Special shout-out to **Mojo Pizza N' Pub** for helping to power the movement. We have partnered with this awesome neighborhood pizza joint located at 657 E. Lake Dr. in the Oakhurst Square in Decatur for almost a year to feed our volunteers, members and supporters at countless meetings and events. We invite you to support them as they have supported us!

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 1044-834) 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