GET INVOLVED IN 2018 • LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW • ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CULTURE OF CONVENIENCE • PLANT GOVTLE UPDATE • PLUS • UPCOMING EVENTS AND OUTINGS • GEORGIA CHAPTER UPDATES
FROM THE CHAPTER DIRECTOR

2017 was a year wrought with disasters and disappointments, both natural and otherwise. But, as we head into 2018, I’m filled with optimism and energy, and there are two big reasons why.

First, I’m encouraged by the progress we’ve made in replacing dirty fuels with clean, renewable energy here in Georgia. Despite a momentary setback in stopping the $25 billion dollar nuclear power boondoggle at Plant Vogtle, progress on solar installations, energy efficiency and electric vehicle ordinances, and transit investments haven’t been stopped. Instead, many cities and businesses across the state are accelerating renewable and clean energy solutions.

We’re also retiring dirty and dangerous coal plants faster than ever. This past year, the Sierra Club Beyond Coal national campaign passed the halfway mark on retiring our nation’s coal fleet, and we hope to announce two more in 2018! Wow.

Second, we’re pushing forward on local clean energy. As of the end of 2017, more than 50 municipalities around the country have committed to transition to 100% clean, renewable energy, with the City of Atlanta releasing their plan at the end of January. This plan maps out how the city will be powered by 100% renewable energy by 2035. We will use Atlanta’s blueprint as a model to transition other municipalities and communities in Georgia for the second phase of this work, showing local leaders how clear and economical the path to the future has become.

I’m incredibly optimistic for the year ahead. From our burgeoning Sierra Student Coalition work on college campuses and the vibrant Military Outdoors program, to our expanding grassroots legislative and political networks that are working to hold politicians accountable and make sure that the environmentalist voice shows up near you in the 2018 elections.

As we start a new year, let’s continue to keep our eye on the goal of a clean energy future for all. As we head into 2018, it’s my hope that we can continue to explore, enjoy, and protect our state for years to come.

Oliver works with college and high school students in the metro Atlanta area and around the state to support them as they organize environmental justice campaigns on their campuses. He enjoys connecting his personal love for nature to his commitment to social change through SSC’s climate justice framework.

We are pleased to welcome several new Chapter Staff members!

Kelley has worked in the nonprofit industry for over 25 years, organizing events that have earned five Best Charity Event Awards from Gwinnett Magazine. As Development Coordinator, Kelley is cultivating and sustaining generous giving to the Georgia Chapter so that we can continue to explore, enjoy, and protect our state for years to come.

Oliver has more than 18 years of experience in national marketing, politics, and public policy under her professional belt. She specializes in leading organizations that are poised to drive national public policy via effective communication, opposition research, legal strategy, and political relationships.

Finally, the Georgia Chapter is saddened to say goodbye to Assistant Director Brionté McCorkle. Thank you, Brionté for all of your dedication, passion, and drive to preserve and protect Georgia. The Georgia Chapter would not be the same without you, and you will be sorely missed! We wish you and your family the very best as you move into your new position, and we are thankful that you will be back during the legislative session to help us lobby!

Farewell, Brionté.

Kimberly Spence, David Joannides
Join as Clean Energy Organizers

Kimberly has more than 18 years of experience in national marketing, politics, and public policy under her professional belt. She specializes in leading organizations that are poised to drive national public policy via...
2018 Legislative Preview

MARK WOODALL

The 2018 state legislative session should see critical action taken in all Sierra Club priority issue areas, including energy, transportation, water, and land protection. Now is the time to get involved and make your state representative and state senator aware of your support for the protection of Georgia’s environment. Visit legis.ga.gov to find the contact information for your elected officials, as well as all things concerning the Georgia General Assembly.

Georgia is now the only state seemingly so corrupted by monopoly utility money that hideously expensive nuclear power units are still under construction. In 2009, Georgia Power hired an army of lobbyists to pass Senate Bill 31, the Georgia Nuclear Power Financing Act. SB 31 shifted all the risk for building new nukes to the customers. The customers have now paid over $2 billion for Vogtle 3 and 4 and are still paying every month, even though Vogtle 3 and 4 were supposed to be finished by 2017. We must strengthen our efforts in an attempt to see that SB 31 is repealed or amended.

Transit advocates are optimistic the House Commission on Transit Governance and Funding meetings will result in state support for public transportation. State funding of capital improvements for transit seems to be the most popular option. Local transportation funding votes outside Atlanta in 2018 are possible in Gwinnett and Fulton Counties. The state law covering local voting needs to be amended to allow a longer collection period, if such funding is to improve transit. Driving an electric vehicle (EV) is one of the best ways to protect both the environment and national security. We expect continued efforts to reduce the nation’s highest annual fee on EVs ($200 a year) and to re-establish, at least, some of the EV state tax credit which has gone from best in the nation to zero.

As a member of the Georgia Water Coalition, the Sierra Club will again work to pass several water quality protection measures. The Georgia Supreme Court’s buffer case decision left many rivers and streams in Georgia without protection. Legislation is needed to provide certainty of protection to landowners and regulators. Georgia Power’s 90 million tons of coal ash continues to have an impact. Greater public notification and groundwater protections are needed. The Coalition will again be working to restore funding of the trust funds that get fees from tire disposal, landfill tonnage and hazardous waste. These funds have been diverted to other uses, leaving abandoned toxic sites and used tires all over Georgia. The constitutional amendment to put trust back in the trust funds is House Resolution 158 sponsored by Representative Jay Powell. Find information about the water quality bills at gawater.org.

An increase in the real estate transfer tax to fund land protection was narrowly defeated on the 1998 ballot. Ever since then, a funding mechanism has been sought. The Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Act Committee has hired the entire McGuire Woods Consulting team, led by Brad Alexander, to lobby for passage of a constitutional amendment this session. The funding would be supplied by a sales tax on certain recreational equipment.

Stopping rollbacks of environmental, health and safety protection is always a critical concern. Lieutenant Governor, Casey Cagle, and the Senate GOP Caucus made Senate Bill 2 a 2017 priority. SB 2 is a sweeping attack on health, safety and the environment of Georgia. As introduced, SB 2 included all the old, largest polluters who don’t like environmental protection, such as cost-benefit analysis and legislative override of regulations. SB 2 is said to be revenge on the City of Atlanta for its building efficiency ordinance. While SB 2 has been heavily amended along the way, it still needs to be scrutinized. Another possible rollback held over from 2017 is the Shore Protection Act, HB 271. It is a beach destruction act in its current form. HB 271 was held in the Senate Natural Resources Committee for study over the summer. HB 271 needs to be amended or killed. Other rollbacks will certainly appear. So, please, pay attention and get involved.

Find Your Local Chapter Outings @ sierraclub.org/georgia/outings
Environmental Consequences of a Georgian Culture of Convenience: Observations from a Semi-Recent Transplant

MATTHEW SNOPE

We live in a hotel civilization… in which people are obsessed with comfort, contentment, and convenience, where the lights are always on. [We] don’t have time for questions. We don’t have time for such interrogations.

- Cornel West, lecture to Washington University in St. Louis, 2006

Punk band the Dead Kennedys once titled an album “Give Me Convenience or Give Me Death,” riffing on the well-known Patrick Henry quote. It’s important to remember that convenience has not always been part of the human adventure; in fact, much, if not most, of human history has been inconvenient. When I moved to the Atlanta area from California’s Bay Area (where plastic bags have been banned), I was amazed to see how much plastic packaging was used as the de facto policy of many restaurants, grocery stores, and retailers.

I have also found that while Southern hospitality and a general sense of politeness are indeed part of the culture, people act differently behind the wheel of their vehicles. I’ve experienced some close calls of almost being hit by distracted and aggressive drivers while walking around Decatur, most likely well-meaning people simply caught up in the furious acceleration of capitalism. After experiencing a few particularly humid and brutal Georgian summers, I understand the allure of an air-conditioned car. However, I’ve noticed that many people use their cars for absurdly short trips, such as a neighbor who drove her car from her home to the convenience store… one block next door. Possibly the most shocking of all, I’ve even noticed police personnel leaving their cars running while dining at local eateries.

What all of this speaks to is a culture of convenience, but with such a culture comes a high cost. Plastic packaging ends up in landfills or, worse, in the ocean and then in bodies of marine creatures; this reliance on cars means a reduced importance on walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

Society was transformed with the rise of both automobiles and plastics in the 1950s. Now we have climate change, sedentary lifestyle-related health problems, and five distinct plastic garbage islands in our oceans. Philosopher Paul Virilio once noted that the invention of the ship was also the invention of the shipwreck, but humanity has a tendency to overlook the disastrous consequences of new inventions until it is at a crisis stage.

The use of plastic packaging and hopping in the car for the shortest of trips, for many, has become entrenched and encultured. However, there is always hope. When I got rid of my car many years ago, I naturally had concerns about safety, getting around, moving, etc. Since then, I have found that light rail systems, walking, bicycles, and car-sharing are completely doable. Often, we know better but persist in acting in environmentally-insensitive ways that create this culture of convenience that is entirely avoidable.

The interesting thing about Georgia is that, often, people don’t know any better – they don’t always realize that alternatives exist. I am not calling for the abolition of either cars or plastics; ultimately, however, the reduced use of both these conveniences could make a significant impact. As is often the case in the environmental movement, it begins with awareness, dissemination of information, and counter-intuitive changes to people’s habitual behavior. Moving forward in 2018, I hope to see us become even more progressive about environmental impacts and improvements, large and small.

Interested in the topic of transit issues around the state of Georgia? The Georgia Chapter’s Regional Action to Improve Livability (RAIL) Committee advocates for transportation choices, such as mass-transit and biking, and transit-oriented development in Georgia. We believe that traveling by car should be just one of many options available to Georgians.

In 2015, Americans drove enough to travel to Pluto and back 337 times. Now, burning oil is the #1 source of climate-disrupting pollution in the U.S., and most of that comes from cars with only one passenger. Burning oil to power vehicles harms our air quality and public health. That’s why our goal is to cut oil use in half in Georgia by 2030. We work to reduce dependence on cars and trucks by securing more funding for sustainable transportation choices like mass transit, biking, walking, and electric vehicles. We encourage walkable community development for a better quality of life in Georgia, and oppose bloated road projects.

To get involved with our RAIL Committee, visit: sierraclub.org/georgia/raill
Vogtle Gets the Green Light - What's Next?
IAN KARRA

Georgia Power rates will climb by as much as 8% when Unit 3 comes online, according to PSC chair Stan Wise, whose planned resignation will clear the way for Governor Deal to name a replacement. While construction continues, Georgia Power will see a cut to its profit margin, but the company still stands to profit over $5 billion from the delays. As part of the agreement, Georgia Power will build a 5 megawatt (MW) community solar project at Plant Vogtle (enough to power about 750 homes) in addition to the 3 MW project currently online. By contrast, Xcel Energy has 139 MW of community solar projects online.

Even with the commission’s blessing, the project remains on shaky ground. The vote to move forward hinges on the project’s backers receiving $800 million in tax breaks, which failed to make it into the Tax Reform bill passed at the end of last year. There is currently no timeline for this vote to proceed. Despite the sunny outlook from Georgia Power that construction will remain on the new schedule and budget, credit agencies have downgraded credit outlook from Georgia Power that construction will return to about 4% renewable by 2021.

Georgia Power and Georgia will commit $25 billion to those goals, it is clear that solar, wind, energy efficiency, and smart grid investments are a better means to build resilience and move away from fossil fuels. The bomb cyclone that hit the northeast over the holidays poked a big hole in the argument for nuclear’s stability. The biggest grid failure came from a power line failure that forced Entergy Corp. to shut down the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in eastern Massachusetts.

Up next in the Vogtle saga is this summer’s 18th Vogtle Construction Monitoring process, which will give clues to whether the project proceeds according to the schedule and budget now supervised under Georgia Power’s and new contractor Bechtel’s management. The race for two Public Service Commission seats currently held by Chuck Eaton and Stan Wise will take place in November 2018. The victorious commissioners will be seated at the time Georgia Power claims Units 3 and 4 will be completed; they will be tasked with the fallout if they are not.

In January 2019, Georgia Power will file its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a 20-year outlook on meeting Georgia’s energy demand. The previous IRP required Georgia Power to build up to 1,600 megawatts of renewable energy, bringing the share of Georgia’s grid to about 4% renewable by 2021.

We hear a common refrain from our Georgia regulatory or literally! - on a day with both biological and chemical monitoring is March 17, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 AM to 11 AM, and biological monitoring will take the full time.

For information about chemical monitoring dates, call Larry Kloet (404.616.7226). For more details about biological monitoring, call Nancy Wylie (404.256.1172). Detailed directions are available at sierraclub.org/georgia/atlanta/adopt-stream-program.

GET INVOLVED!
We’re getting major elections coming up in 2018, including for the governor, Public Service Commissioners, and state House and Senate! It’s a great time to get involved with our group’s political committee, which reaches out to candidates for information and decides on which ones to endorse, as well as voter outreach. If you’d like to help with the political committee, please email political chair Eddie Ehler (edehlert@bellsouth.net). If you’d like to help with voter outreach, please email our chair Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail.com).

Want to pitch in by keeping on top of local news, policy, politics, events, and opportunities? Would you like to help out at our meetings or plan events? Please email our chair Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail.com).

WINTER 2018 GROUP NEWS

MEG RO ATLANTA GROUP

Fall/Winter 2017 Recap
NINA DUTTON

In October Eddie Ehler, our political chair, spoke on the races and candidates for Atlanta mayor and City Council. Misty Novitch introduced the Ready For 100 Atlanta campaign and described opportunities (including Community Conversions) to learn about the City of Atlanta’s 100% clean energy goal and provided input on the city’s upcoming plan for meeting that goal.

In November we heard from Nikema Williams, Jennifer Ide, Jason Dozier, and a representative from Jen Jordan’s campaign. All of these candidates received Sierra Club endorsements in their races; Williams (District 39) and Jordan (District 6) won their state Senate seats, Ide won the Atlanta City Council District 6 seat, and Dozier made it to the runoff for the Atlanta City Council District 4 seat. At the meeting, speakers and attendees connected the dots between energy efficiency, transit, infrastructure for walking and biking, housing affordability, resiliency, and more.

In December, we had no regular meeting and instead opted to celebrate with the rest of the Chapter at our Atlanta campaign and described opportunities (including for the governor, Public Service Commissioners, and state Senate) with the rest of the campaign’s volunteers, and state House and Senate! It’s a great time to get involved with our group’s political committee, which reaches out to candidates for information and decides on which ones to endorse, as well as voter outreach. If you’d like to help with the political committee, please email political chair Eddie Ehler (edehlert@bellsouth.net). If you’d like to help with voter outreach, please email our chair Nina Dutton (nddutton@gmail.com).

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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! - is on a day with both biological and chemical monitoring is March 17, from 10 AM to 12 PM. Chemical monitoring will be from 10 AM to 11 AM, and biological monitoring will take the full time.

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Continuing 2017’s Success
LYNN WALSTON & BETTYE HARRIS

The Centennial Group ended a busy 2017 with a well-attended and successful Holiday Party & Auction at the Avery Gallery. Special thanks to our hosts Shae & Gwenda Avery!

We recognized four volunteers for special contributions: Andrea Searles, Janice Metzel, Linda & Steven Bell, and Ron Warnken. We also acknowledged our recently elected ExCom members: Claudette Suke-nick, Lynn Walston, and Olivia Williams. Finally, we welcomed Mary Miller as our newest certified Outings Leader!

Other 2017 highlights noted: celebrating our 25 Year Anniversary with a picnic and hike; hosting our first Cobb-area Sierra Club & Beer gathering & outdoor Year Anniversary with a picnic and hike; hosting our Leader!

We will also participate in many tabling events during the year, and strengthen our legislative, lobbying, political, and social media skills. Remember to keep track of our planned outings and join us outside: sierr club.org/georgia/outingscalendar

We would love to hear what you’re interested in! We have many needs and opportunities and would welcome your support and ideas. Contact Lynn Walston (lynnwalston22@yahoo.com) to get involved.

Happy New Year!

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS
Lynn Walston • lynnwalston22@yahoo.com • Chair
Lee Graham • leegraham3@gmail.com • Outings Chair
Monthly Meetings: 1st Thursday, welcome/referrals at 7 p.m., program at 7:30 p.m., Life College, 1209 Barclay Cir. SE, Marietta. For directions please contact Lynn Walston.
Visit our webpage at sierrclub.org/georgia/centennial
Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/Centennial.Sierra.Club

SAVANNAH RIVER GROUP
Join Us for an Outing this Year
LINDA McBURNEY

Although the temperature dipped to some of the lowest this fall, it did not affect the fun everyone had in our group’s family-oriented celebration of Sierra Club’s 125th anniversary on November 18-19! There was overnight camping at Mistletoe State Park, a bonfire, hiking, and a talk from a wildlife biologist about animals of Mistletoe.

We also elected three members to our Executive Committee: Cathy Black, Larry Komp and Tim Nelsen! Congratulations to each of our members for their re-election into another 2-year term!

UPCOMING EVENTS
• Saturday, February 3 at 10:30 AM: Greeneway Bike Ride. Contact Bill Jackson at 404-538-3336 or billjackson01@gmail.com.
• February 23-24: Hike Inn. Reservations must be made ASAP by contacting Dawn at dgevgian@live.com.

ADOPT-A-STREAM TRAINING
Columbia County: Mike Reardon, AAS coordinator, holds training and certification classes as needed on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Reed Creek Interpretive Center. To request a class date, contact Mike Reardon at 706-421-8639 or reardonmp@hotmail.com
Richmond County: Frank Carl, AAS coordinator, holds training in the Cotton Room at the Augusta Canal Authority, Enterprise Mill, 1450 Green Street, Augusta. Workshops are on Saturdays from 9 AM to 4 PM. Contact Frank Carl to obtain information at frankcarl@knology.net, or 706-364-5253.

If you are interested in assisting or observing an AAS Stream Monitoring Team, contact either one of the above AAS coordinators, Mike Reardon or Frank Carl, (contacts listed above).

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS
Linda McBurney, • mscmcb@outlook.com • Co-Chair
Sam Biohauer • sbiohauer1@gmail.com • Co-Chair
Frank Carl • frankcarl@knology.net • Conservation Chair
Cathy Black • sonnyandcathyblack@gmail.com • Outings Chair

GREATER GWINNETT GROUP
Looking Ahead to 2018
DAN FRIEDMAN

The Gwinnett Group is looking ahead to 2018 with great anticipation. Historically, Gwinnett has been averse to public transit and, if nothing is done, may well remain that way. As Bob Dylan once said, “Times, they are a-changin.” The citizens of Gwinnett, due in no small part to the changing demographics, increased congestion, and education about transit, have pressured the Gwinnett Commissioners to seriously consider transit. However, this is only the beginning of a long and drawn-out process. The Gwinnett Group, with Art Sheldon as our point person, will continue to engage and connect political, business, and civic leaders to make transit a reality. Transit in Gwinnett is at a tipping point. Engaging and enhancing businesses and the citizens of Gwinnett is our mandate as Sierrans, as well as our moral responsibility.

Our January ExCom meeting will be focused on our strategy and tactics for influencing county political leadership and working with diverse groups, including...
business, civic, racial, and economic groups to bring a transit system that will meet the needs of Gwinnett’s citizens. Included in our discussion will be the roles our members will play and what resources we will need to employ.

Join us at our group meetings! The Gwinnett Group meets at 7 PM on every third Thursday of the month at Berkmar High School (405 Pleasant Hill Rd, Lilburn, GA 30047).

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS
Dan Friedman • dan3688@aol.com • Chair
Art Sheldon • asheldon.cp81@gtalumni.org • Conservation Chair
Jake Harrison • jake.harrison@usa.gov • Outgoing Chair

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

LA GRANGE GROUP

Congratulations, Travis Towns!

LAURA BREYFOGLE

Congratulations to our 2017 Volunteer of the Year, Travis Towns! Travis has been a tremendous asset to our policy staff, our conservation campaigns and our outreach efforts! We appreciate your hard work and we look forward to working with you again in 2018.

Our 2018 Executive Committee members are: 

- Susan Winslett (chair), Laura Breyfogle (communications co-chair, program chair and chapter excom representative). In addition, other members of our leadership team are Judy Lawrence (treasurer), Kathryn Scholl (recycling), Mitzi Flagg (outings), Paula Darden (secretary), Jake Krysiak (Sierra Student coalition), Kilsup Van Lien, Joanna Baxter, Sam Breyfogle and Emily Jones.

We are updating our communications in 2018. We will be discontinuing the use of YahooGroups as our email vehicle. Our meetings, outings and other events will be announced via our Facebook page, MeetUp page, or chapter outings email list. Visit these sites to sign up for any or all of them:

- MeetUp: for email notification of all of our meetings and outings: meetup.com/Sierra-Club-LaGrange-Group/events
- Facebook: for Facebook notifications of all of our meetings and outings plus other broader environmental issues: bit.ly/SiLCaGrange
- Chapter outings email list: for notification of all of outings offered by Sierra Club outings leaders in Georgia: bit.ly/SCGOutingsList

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS
Laura Breyfogle • laura.breyfoogle@charter.net • Chair
Ellen Parkhurst • ellen_parkhurst@yahoo.com • Membership and Hospitality Chair, Communication Co-Chair
Travis Towns • travist@aol.com • Chapter Excom Representative and Communication Co-Chair

Monthly 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-Aug).

COASTAL GROUP

GROUP INFO & CONTACTS
Karen Granvey • karen.granvey@bellsouth.net • Chair
Steve Wagner • sjwagner@hotmail.com • Outgoing Chair

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

REGIONAL CONTACTS
Ashburn UNE Georgia • Ted Terry • ted.terry@sierraclub.org
Foryth County • Jim Callison • callisonjm@bellsouth.net
Macon • Fletcher Winston • winston_f@mercer.edu
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Valdosta • Brian Day • bjday@valdosta.edu

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Marisa Gutierrez • marisa.gutierrez@fluor.com • Financial Chair, At-Large Member
Jeff Schoenberg • schoenbergje@gmail.com • Fundraising Chair, At-Large Member
Dan Friedman • dan3688@aol.com • Human Resources Chair, Gwinnett Group Delegate
Yeou-Rong Ji • yeourong@gmail.com • Membership Chair, At-Large Member
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Karen Granvey • karen.granvey@bellsouth.net • Coastal Group Delegate
Travis Towns • travist@aol.com • LaGrange Group Delegate

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Southeast Military Veterans & Outdoors Coordinator
Lornett Vestal • 404-607-1262 x222
lornett.vestal@sierraclub.org

NATIONAL PROGRAM

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Sierra Student Coalition
Oliver Owens • oliver.owens@sierraclub.org

GEORGIA SIERRA CLUB

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Decatur, GA 30030
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E-mail: georgia.chapter@sierraclub.org
georgia.sierraclub.org
OUTINGS
Sierra Club Outings provide a variety of opportunities for people to enjoy the beautiful outdoors. To see a list of upcoming outings, please visit our outings calendar at georgia.sierraclub.org/outings

What to Bring
For day hikes, always bring lunch and enough water. Consider layered clothing, sunscreen, good hiking boots with treads, and hiking poles. Non-service dogs are allowed only if specified in the listing; canine hikers should bring leashes, litter bags, and water for their dogs.

Liabilities
To participate on a Sierra Club outing, you will need to sign a liability waiver. To read a copy of the waiver form, please visit tinyurl.com/outingswaiver or call (404) 607-1262

Carpooling
Carpooling helps the environment and allows people without cars to participate. If you are driving to a hike, please stop by the carpool point to pick up others. If you’re a rider, pay a share of expenses. Many activities are listed on the Chapter’s Meetup site in advance of the event. Join the Meetup group and post a comment requesting or offering a ride: meetup.com/georgia-sierra-club.

Become an Outings Leader!
Do you like spending time in the outdoors? Like seeing new places and meeting new people? If you have ever thought about leading outings, then this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! The Sierra Club has been offering outings for over 100 years, furthering the Sierra Club’s conservation goals around the country. We can give you the preparation you need for certification by the Chapter or your local group as a qualified leader of safe, enjoyable outings.

OUTINGS & EVENTS

WINTER 2018 OUTINGS

FEBRUARY 3 • SATURDAY
North Augusta Greenway Bike Ride. Join us for a leisurely and enjoyable bicycle ride thru North Augusta, Hammond’s Ferry, the Brickyard Ponds and the River-front development area. Please contact Bill Jackson at 404-538-3336 or billjackson01@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 17 • SATURDAY
Sweetwater Creek State Park Hike. Join us for this popular hike with the park’s interpretive ranger, Don Scarbrough. Sign up at Chapter Outings page at sierraclub.org/georgia/outingscalendar.

FEBRUARY 23 • FRIDAY
Len Foote Inn Hike. Join us for the 2nd annual Len Foote Inn hike. This is a moderately difficult hike up to an incredible inn that promotes best ecological practices while offering a comfortable room, dinner and breakfast. Reservations must be made ASAP by contacting Dawn at dgavigan@live.com.

The Georgia Chapter has been busy lately! We wrapped up 2017 with several notable events.

Atlanta is planning to transition to 100% clean energy by 2035. Special thanks to Stephanie Stuckey, the City of Atlanta’s Chief Resilience Officer, for being our guest speaker.

We finished our November with a very special PAC fundraiser at Blue Tarp Brewery, featuring former Democratic candidate for Georgia’s 6th congressional district Jon Ossoff and Nathaniel Stinnett, founder and CEO of the Environmental Voter Project. Jon and Nathaniel spoke to our members about how important environmental voters are, and how we can encourage other environmental voters to show up on election day. A huge thank you to both Jon and Nathaniel for taking the time to join us.

On October 20–22, we held our 2017 Fall Gathering at Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge. We were glad to see so many of our members and supporters enjoying workshops, hikes, campfires, and more in the stunning North Georgia mountains. At Saturday night’s banquet, we announced our 2017 Volunteer Award winners. Congratulations to Frank Carl, Tricia Embry, Stacey Kronquest, Terri Lyde, and the Centennial Group on their wins! Thank you to Atlanta Beverage Company, United Distributors, Len Foote Hike Inn, Patagonia, Piedmont Provisions, REI, and Southeast Adventure Outfitters for their generous donations to our Gathering. We also owe a huge thank you to Amicalola Falls State Park & Lodge for working with us to put on such a memorable weekend.

On November 21, we hosted our final Sierra Club & Beer of 2017. The topic was “Ready For 100: Atlanta.” We had a wonderful turnout at Smith’s Olde Bar and engaged in a compelling discussion on how the City of
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Head to our website for all sorts of great resources and opportunities including:
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VOLUNTEER
For 125 years, Sierra Club volunteers have worked to protect the environment. Be a part of the legacy! Sign up today: bit.ly/GASCVolunteers

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