2015 Georgia Chapter Retreat

FINAL DEADLINE TO REGISTER!  Friday, September 20th at 5p.m.

The Georgia Chapter's bi-annual Chapter Retreat will take place at Crooked River State Park in St. Mary's, GA. Join us and experience a weekend of fun, adventure and learning with your fellow Sierra Club volunteers and leaders from all over Georgia. In addition to several planned hikes, Sierrans will participate in workshops, including:

- **Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage** - J. Herman Black, Executive Director, Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission
- **Local Farming** - Eric Simpson, West Georgia Farmers Cooperative
- **Georgia's Pipelines** - Mary Freund, Watershed Outreach Coordinator, Satilla Riverkeeper
- **Georgia’s Groundwater Resources** - Emily Markesteyn, Riverkeeper & Executive Director for Ogeechee Riverkeeper
- **College Campus Sustainability** - Michael Black, Associate Professor & Faculty Associate, Office of Sustainability, Georgia State University
- **Intro to Activism Training, Part I & II** - Ian Karra, Beyond Coal Organizer, Sierra Club and Brionté McCorkle, Conservation & Communications Coordinator, Georgia Sierra Club
- **Backpacking 101** - Harriett Lane

Awards Banquet
On Saturday evening, we will gather for a special Awards Banquet to recognize our volunteer leaders. We are excited to announce the two amazing Keynote Speakers who will be joining us!

**Janisse Ray** is an American writer, naturalist, and environmental activist. She is the author of the award-winning *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, a highly praised book that combines elements of ecology and autobiography. As activist and memoirist, Ray alternates chapters between her childhood in rural southern Georgia and the ecological history of that region—an effective switch that shows the delicate symbiotic nature of the landscape and the people who are irrevocably connected with the land.

**Aaron Mair** is the newly-elected Sierra Club President.

On May 16, the Sierra Club elected Aaron Mair of Schenectady, New York, as its new president. An epidemiological-spatial analyst with the New York State Department of Health, Mair brings more than three decades of environmental activism and over 25 years as a Sierra Club volunteer leader to his position as the Sierra Club’s first African American president.

**Cumberland Island Outing**

Additionally, the Georgia Chapter has arranged an exclusive visit to **Cumberland Island**, Georgia’s largest and southernmost barrier island! Cumberland Island is home to over 9,800 acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness, and is famous for its pristine maritime forests, undeveloped beaches, wide marshes and rich history. [Click here for more details!](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=386947.0)

*Photo Source: [Cumberland Island National Park Service Flickr](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=386947.0)*

In addition to chapter-led activities, Crooked River State Park offers a range of self-led activities including: Kayak tours, Bike riding, Rookery and Bird watching, Tour of Kings Bay Naval Base, Boat Cruises, a Golf Cart Tour of Historic St. Marys and much more!

**We hope you'll join us for a weekend of exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet!**

[RSVP Now](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=386947.0)

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**Take Action to Stop the Sabal Trail Pipeline Compressor Station**
On November 21, 2014, Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC filed its application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in order to authorize it to construct, operate, and acquire facilities to transport natural gas to downstream markets in the United States. The proposed Sabal Trail project will include approximately 474 miles of interstate natural gas pipeline, 196 miles of which will travel through southwest Georgia, and at least two compressor stations at the beginning and end of the pipeline system. The proposed pipeline will not benefit Georgia citizens—all of the natural gas will be used in Florida or exported for profit. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is now accepting public comments on the proposed pipeline and compressor station until Monday, July 20th, 2015.

Please submit your comments to FERC opposing the construction of the Sabal Trail Pipeline and the proposed Spectra compressor station today!

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**Sierra Club Meetings**

**Wildlands & Wildlife Committee Meeting**, Monday, July 20, 7:00 p.m.
William Tomlin, wmltom@gmail.com

**RAIL Committee Meeting**, Monday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.
Brionté McCorkle, brionte.mccorkle@sierraclub.org

**Smart Energy Committee Meeting**, Monday, August 3, 7:00 p.m.
Cecilia Harris, ceciliaharris@gmail.com

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*Don't live in Atlanta? Check out our Local Groups.*

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**Other Events**

**July 23rd - Outings Leader Training 101** - 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. Attend our Outings Leader Training 101 to learn how you can lead outdoor events with the Sierra Club of Georgia. Special class taught by Sierra Club volunteers! We will cover Core Outings Information, History and Programs, Leader Requirements, Planning and Conducting an Outing, and Safety Management. [Click here to register.](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=386947.0)

**July 30th - Seeds of Time Film Screening** - The Atlanta Science Tavern cordially invites you to attend a special screening of the newly-released documentary film, "Seeds of Time," a documentary about agriculture pioneer Cary Fowler who is racing against time to protect the future of our food. With little time to waste, both Fowler and the farmers he encounter embark on passionate and personal journeys that may save the one resource we cannot live without: our seeds. The screening will take place at the Regal Cinemas Hollywood 24 on the I-85N access road in Chamblee. The event will include a panel discussion led by experts in the fields of crop biodiversity and its policy implications. Advance ticket purchase is required. [Click here to register.](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/MessageViewer?em_id=386947.0)

**July 31st to August 1st - Urban Outdoor Summit** - Greening Forward proudly partners with the Urban American Outdoors television show to present the 6th annual Urban Outdoor Summit. The Urban Outdoor Summit recognizes the diversity deficit that the environmental movement faces. Given that young people are more multicultural today than ever before in history, Greening Forward believes that substantive engagement of young people is a part of the solution to creating a more resilient conservation movement. Sportsmen and women, and environmental advocates and agencies will share their ideas on how to strengthen the conservation movement. Join us in these engaging
conversations on how the conservation movement should move forward, and represent a movement for all.

Click here to register.

**August 1st - Hike and Swim at Panther Creek Falls** - Join us for a 6.8 mile round trip hike and swim at Panther Creek Falls. Panther Creek Falls is a high-volume powerful affair that dumps over a large and ragged rock face into one of the largest pools in the Georgia Mountains. The majority of the trail is flat and shaded with only a few steep inclines. We will hike at a moderate pace until we reach the 70 foot waterfall where we will spend a couple of hours swimming and having lunch before heading back to the trailhead. Limit 12. Click here to register.

**August 12th - Atlanta Green Drinks** - To celebrate August's Atlanta Green Drinks, we invite you to enjoy free beer with us at Trees Atlanta's beautiful Kendeda Center in Reynoldstown. Their amazing staff & volunteers have worked tirelessly since 1985 protecting Atlanta's forests, replacing lost trees and creating new greenspace, planting over 100,000 new shade trees in city right-of-ways, front yards, parks, parking lots, schools, neighborhoods, multi-family housing units, public facilities, places of worship, industrial parks, transportation corridors, and along the PATH400 & Atlanta BeltLine... So let's show them some love! All green folks are welcome! Click here to register.

**August 12nd & November 14th - Georgia River Network Hidden Gems Paddle** - Save the date for excursions to rediscover some of the hidden gems on Georgia's waterways. Each one-day river trip includes lunch and presentations along the route, ranging from natural history and water quality testing to cultural history and river cleanups. On Aug 22: South River – From Urban Wasteland to Wet & Wild Oasis - Go with the flow and explore this nearly forgotten beauty. On Nov 14: Ochlockonee River – Tea-Stained Waters, Cypress Knees & Rich Wildlife Diversity - Discover this majestic river in the Red Hills of Southwest Georgia. Click here to register.

Looking for more? Check out our Meetup Group for even more events!

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