Georgia Chapter

Hands Across the Sand

Hands Across the Sand is a movement made of people of all walks of life and crosses political affiliations. This movement is not about politics; it is about protection of our coastal economies, oceans, marine wildlife, and fishing industry. Let us share our knowledge, energies and passion for protecting all of the above from the devastating effects of oil drilling.

In Florida on Saturday, February 13, 2010, a statewide gathering against offshore oil drilling occurred. Thousands of Floridians representing 60 towns and cities and over 90 beaches joined hands to protest the efforts by the Florida Legislature and the US Congress to lift the ban on oil drilling in the near and off shores of Florida. Florida’s Hands Across the Sand event was the largest gathering in the history of Florida united against oil drilling. Thousands joined hands from Jacksonville to Miami Beach and Key West to Pensacola Beach, each against oil drilling in Florida’s waters.

The image is powerful, the message is simple. NO to Offshore Oil Drilling, YES to Clean Energy.

You too can be involved in this powerful movement. Georgia is taking part in the effort to convince our State Legislators, Governors, Congress and President Obama to stop the expansion of offshore oil drilling and to adopt policies encouraging clean and renewable energy sources.

On June 26th at 11a.m. individuals will be joining hands in Athens with Sara Ivy, Atlanta with Angie Brooks, in Augusta with Sam Booher, on St. Simons Island with Cynthia Potter, and on Tybee Island with Paul Wolff. To see the event in your area and get more information please click here.

Join the Sierra Club to make your voice heard and make sure to bring your beach towel and pool noodles to provide a good clear visual that we want to continue to be able to enjoy our coasts and oceans. Now is the time for America and our leaders to join hands and steer our country’s energy policy away from our dependence on fossil fuels and into the light of clean energy and renewables. Join hands with us and draw a line in the sand against offshore oil drilling.

Quick Links
Free Sweet Crude Screening
On Monday, June 28th 7:30p.m. at Plaza Theatre 1049 Ponce De Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA, you’re invited to a free screening of Sweet Crude! The Sierra Club, in partnership with the Publish What You Pay coalition, is proud to announce a complimentary screening of the film Sweet Crude where Nigerian environmental and human rights activist Von Kemedi will be in attendance to lead a discussion directly after the screening. Sweet Crude captures the tragedies of oil extraction in the Niger Delta where billions of dollars of crude oil flow under the feet of a desperate people and immense wealth and abject poverty stand in stark contrast.

Just as the Gulf oil spill threatens to devastate communities here in the US, communities the world over face ongoing threats to their livelihoods and environment while seldom benefiting from the wealth generated through natural resource extraction. This screening is part of our organizations’ ongoing efforts to help citizens from resource-rich countries hold their governments accountable for the management of their natural resources. For more information or to rsvp please click here.

Help Wanted: Sign up for Green the Governor!
Currently Georgia’s 2010 election cycle is upon us and for the first time, Georgia’s environmental community has come together to speak with one voice on environmental issues that are of importance to Georgia’s citizens. We have unified a coalition of over 30 groups and drafted a 10 point pledge to present to the candidates for Georgia’s highest office and seek their commitment to a greener and more sustainable Georgia. To meet this challenge, we need to engage and educate the public and to seek their assistance to support this effort to "Green the Governor" on key issues such as water, energy and transportation and your help is vital to meeting our goal. To sign up, please click here.

Sierra Club Meetings

**RAIL Committee Meeting**, Monday, June 28th, 6:45p.m., Jim Dexter – Chair, call 678-313-2407, jimdex@aol.com

**Smart Energy Team Meeting**, Monday, July 7th, 6:30p.m refreshments, 7p.m. start, Colleen Kiernan - Chair, colleenkiernan@mindspring.com

**Fundraising Committee Meeting**, Wednesday, July 21st, 7:00p.m., Erin Wetty – Chair, call 404-607-1262 x 225, gregory.schwartz@sierraclub.org

**Inner City Outings Meeting**, Tuesday, July 27th, 7:00p.m., Allison Williams, call 404-664-4199, adwilliams8@yahoo.com

Environmental Events

**Type A Event**
Thursday, June 24th, 7:00p.m.
Dolce - Atlantic Station (map)
Join the Sierra Club and David Emory, of the Georgia Chapter Executive Committee and Atlanta Regional Commission, as the featured speaker on transit in Georgia. This is a chance for Sierra Club individuals to engage unlikely partners and to encourage more awareness of Georgia’s environmental needs. For more information please click here.

**A Night Out At The Theater**
Wednesday, June 30th, 8:00p.m.
Horizon Theater Company in Little Five Points
Come support Atlanta Inner City Outings’ annual fundraiser and enjoy an evening out at the theater. Tickets are on sale now for a special preview of the play “Shakin’ the Mess outta Misery” for just $18. All proceeds go to support outreach programs that provide outdoor experiences to the urban youth of Atlanta. For more information or to buy tickets, click here.
**Hike Inn Trail and AT Approach Trail Outing**
Saturday, June 26th
Dawsonville, GA ([map](http://www.google.com/maps))
This moderate, 10.5 mile hike is a loop, using the 5 mile trail to Len Foote Hike Inn, continuing 1 mile past the Inn to join the AT approach trail for the 3.5 mile return trip. We will hike through rhododendron, various micro-climates, cross creeks and maybe identify some plants. Once at "Hike Inn" we will break for lunch, relax, and enjoy the views before continuing. This is not a stroll in the woods but is not planned to be a fast hike. For more information please click here.

**Yahoola Creek Reservoir Trail**
Saturday, June 26th
Dahlonega, GA ([map](http://www.google.com/maps))
A loop trail, the Yahoola Creek Reservoir Trail wraps around the Yahoola Creek Reservoir for a total of 4 miles. Head across the dam, hang a left along the road, then past some picnic shelters and then off onto the wooded trail. We will keep up a brisk pace, with occasional pauses for a photograph or two. For those of you who work up an appetite we will eat lunch in Dahlonega after the hike. For more information please click here.

**Paulding Forest Hike**
Saturday, July 3rd
Western Paulding County/West of Dallas, GA
This is a new hike in Paulding Forest. We will park at a little used access point on the Silver Comet Trail and walk off the SCT through the woods for about 2.5 miles to scenic Raccoon Creek. We will wade across Raccoon Creek several times as we travel from the culvert under the Silver Comet to the culvert under the currently used train tracks. We will climb up from the creek to the Silver Comet Trail and walk back to the access point. This hike involves several ascents and descents in the first half. For more information please click here.

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