

RIVER CHAT

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER
WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEE.ORG

GEORGIA'S WATER BILL OF RIGHTS—CREATING A MOVEMENT

Speaking with one voice in an *unprecedented* example of unity, diverse organizations and individuals from all parts of Georgia have enthusiastically endorsed the Georgia Water Bill of Rights (WBOR). This nine-point credo, developed last summer by representatives of the conservation, scientific, government, and business communities, sets forth the aspirations of the ordinary citizen with regard to our most precious natural resource—water. (see www.GeorgiaWaterRights.net)

Three-Quarters of a Million Georgians Signed On

As of early November, more than 750,000 Georgians had endorsed this basic set of principles as individuals, through their membership in organizations, or as residents of endorsing local governments. From the Georgia Federation of Homeowners and the AIDS Survival Project to the Georgia Wildlife Federation and from Bryan County to the City of Atlanta, those who support the WBOR represent significant geographic, philosophical and political diversity. The common thread is a strong commitment to the protection of Georgia's rivers, streams and lakes for future generations and for their ecological values.

It is the expectation, and hope, that these principles will be used to measure and evaluate future policies and laws, even regulations, that affect our waterways and are implemented at all levels of government. One of the most important guiding principles underscores the fact that the waters of Georgia belong to the people and that the state serves as a trustee for the public's interest. A

specific goal expressed by the Georgia Water Rights Network is to achieve "fishable and swimmable" waterways by 2008. As the Metro Atlanta Chamber's Sam Williams has said, "We've got to be able to eat the fish and swim in the water. It's basic stuff."



A September Rally in Atlanta's Memorial Park featuring guest speaker Rep. DuBose Porter attracted more than 100 people to sign onto the Water Bill of Rights.

THE RIVER MATTERS

For Additional Information Check Our OnLine Calendar

WWW.CHATTAHOOCHEE.ORG

Community Watershed Network Workshop

Call 404-352-9828, ext 16

December 5

2000 X-MAS Party

Call 404-681-9900, ext. 40 or go online: www.xmasparty.org

December 8

Georgia General Assembly convenes

January 8

1st Annual Riverkeeper Bowling Event

Call 404-352-9828, ext. 14 for info.

February 1

Georgia Water Resource Conference 2001

Athens UGA Call: 1-800-884-1381 or 706-542-2134

March 26-27



ALL IS BORN OF WATER;
ALL IS SUSTAINED BY WATER.
Goethe

Metro Atlanta Business Leaders Focus on Water Issues

Also focusing on water, the Metro Atlanta Chamber's Clean Water Initiative task force voted on October 4, 2000 on several options for managing wastewater, stormwater and water supply in the metro Atlanta region in order to meet court-mandated deadlines and to

See *Water Bill of Rights*, page 6

Kool & the Gang Play for the River!

At The Tabernacle on **December 8, 2000** to benefit Riverkeeper, Atlanta Children's Shelter, Hands on Atlanta, Our House, and the YWCA of Cobb County. Tickets \$65. Call the 2000 X-Mas Party Hotline 404-681-9900, ext. 40.

FEDERAL COMMISSIONER LINDSAY THOMAS RECEIVES RIVER GUARDIAN AWARD AT CANOE

Our 5th Annual Patron Appreciation dinner was held in September at our favorite venue—Canoe Restaurant on the Chattahoochee. We presented our *River Guardian Award* to **Lindsay Thomas** for his outstanding efforts to protect natural resources in his position as the Federal Commissioner in the ongoing tri-state “water wars”. Also honored were retiring **State Senator Mike Egan**, who received our *River Defender Award* for his decades of river advocacy in the state legislature, and **State Senator Charles W.**

Walker, who received our *Special Legislative Award* for his efforts to promote good environmental bills and oppose damaging ones during the 2001 legislature.

Special thanks to our honored guests and sponsors for raising more than \$100,000 to help Riverkeeper to fulfill its mission as the *only* environmental advocacy group focused solely on reclaiming the Chattahoochee River.

River Guardian Sponsors: American Proteins, Inc. and Ginair & George McKerrow, Anne & Bob Biebel and Celeste & Jonathan Roseman, Susan & Jim Butler, Donna & Michael Coles, Colonial Pipeline

Company, Cox Enterprises, Inc. Lucy & Stephen Draper, Lora & Geoffrey Fishman,



From left to right: Bob Biebel, Event Co-Chair, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; Michelle Fried, General Counsel, Riverkeeper; Sally Bethea, Executive Director, Riverkeeper; Jonathan Roseman, Event Co-Chair, The Home Depot

Georgia Power, JST Foundation, Marcus Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Scientific Games International, The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Gannon & Beau Turner, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. and the Turner Foundation, Inc.

River Sponsors: Captain Planet Foundation, Ford Motor Company, Merrill Lynch, Porter, Keadle, Moore, LLP, Post Properties, Inc., and Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP. Friends of the River Sponsors: Bank of America - Private Bank, Jane Fonda, LM Aero-Marietta, Ed Voyles Chrysler-Plymouth, Susan & Walton Smith and Wachovia Bank, N.A.

THANKS For Your In-Kind Donations and Services in 2000!

Many thanks to the individuals, corporations and organizations who have generously donated assets and services to Riverkeeper during 2000. These valuable contributions enable us to continue our aggressive advocacy for the Chattahoochee and its tributaries.

Aquascape Environmental
Canoe Restaurant
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Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority
Donahue Studios
Georgia Design and Graphics
Ga Mountains Regional Development Center
Georgia Power Co.
iXL Interactive
Honda Marine
Jordan, Jones & Goulding
C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.
Newfields, Inc.
Park Tavern

Patagonia Buckhead
Peachtree Environmental Services
Martin Powers/IT Group
Brett Salter
Scientific Games International
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP
Susan Smith
SouthWings
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Test America, Inc.
Turner Print Resources
Uncle Julio's
Mary Vachon
Jack White/Americorps

Riverkeeper

ON PATROL



FULTON COUNTY ON NOTICE FOR LANDFILL LEACHATE PROBLEM

Riverkeeper has been investigating a closed **Fulton County landfill** near **Morgan Falls Lake** for several months. Based on our observations and water quality test results, we believe that a storm water runoff pond on the south side of the landfill contains leachate from the landfill with high concentrations of ammonia and other substances. Fulton County built the pond at the headwaters of an unnamed tributary to the river, and designed it so that it discharges into the tributary less than 1000 feet from the river. In August, Riverkeeper met with Fulton County officials and their consultants to ask the County to correct the problem voluntarily. The County promised to conduct its own investigation and report back to Riverkeeper on its findings. Receiving no response, Riverkeeper sent Fulton County a 60-day notice of our intent to bring a citizen suit against the County under the federal Clean Water Act, unless Fulton voluntarily corrects the problem within 60 days. Steve O'Day and Andy Thompson of **Smith, Gambrell & Russell** are representing Riverkeeper in this action.

CHALLENGE TO STATE ISSUANCE OF TROUT STREAM BUFFER VARIANCE IN LUMPKIN COUNTY

In July, Lumpkin County submitted an application to the State Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a variance to the state's 50-foot trout stream buffer requirement, seeking to pipe approximately 360 feet of a **tributary to Yahoola Creek** as part of its plans to build a parking lot for its new mental health facility. Then, in violation of state law, the County cleared the *entire* stream buffer on the site *before* EPD granted its request for a variance. Riverkeeper objected to the proposed variance and asked EPD and local officials to require the County to restore the stream buffer on the site. Despite our objections, EPD granted the variance in late September without *any* protections or mitigation requirements, and the County immediately proceeded to pipe the tributary. Riverkeeper later learned that EPD had received considerable "political" pressure to grant the variance. Because Riverkeeper believes that the piping allowed by the variance will undoubtedly impact the water quality and temperature of the tributary and

Yahoola Creek, Riverkeeper filed a petition with the State Administrative Law Judge challenging the variance. David Pope of **Carr, Tabb, Pope & Freeman** is representing Riverkeeper in this action.

GEORGIA POWER TO END WARM WATER DISCHARGES FROM POWER PLANTS

In August, Georgia Power announced plans to spend \$125 million over the next eight years to install 100-percent cooling towers at **Plant Yates** (near Newnan) and **Plant McDonough** (near Smyrna) on the Chattahoochee River. Presently, each power plant withdraws water from the Chattahoochee to cool its equipment and discharges the heated water back into the river. Georgia Power's decision to remove all of the heat load from its discharges exceeds new state law requirements, which would otherwise allow Georgia Power to discharge water from the plants at five degrees warmer than the water it withdraws for cooling purposes. The heated water from these power plants has contributed significantly to the low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels in this stretch of the river. (Fish and other aquatic life depend on DO for survival). Removing this heat load should raise DO levels and, thus, improve water quality in the river. It will also increase the wastewater assimilative capacity of the Chattahoochee for growth in metro Atlanta.

STRONG WATERSHED ORDINANCE PROPOSED FOR HALL COUNTY

Based on the results of a comprehensive watershed assessment that identified water quality problems, local governments in Hall and Forsyth Counties and the City of Gainesville are considering their next step. Hall County is taking the lead and has proposed a watershed protection ordinance, which Riverkeeper is strongly supporting as a means of protecting water quality in and around **Lake Lanier**. The ordinance has three main components: (1) Strengthened erosion controls including developer certification and a 50-foot stream buffer zone; (2) Establishment of a stormwater management program; and (3) Requirements for maintenance of septic tanks. Unfortunately, the development community and the Georgia Farm Bureau have mounted a campaign *against* the new ordinance (GFB's role is puzzling since agriculture is exempt from these regulations). Riverkeeper has been

involved in this important process as a member of the Technical Advisory Group and will continue to urge Hall County Commissioners to adopt this ordinance.

UTOY CREEK RESIDENTS JOIN FORCES TO FIGHT EROSION FROM DEVELOPMENT

In September, twenty-nine citizens attended Riverkeeper's Soil Watch Workshop in southwest Atlanta, sponsored by the **West Atlanta Watershed Alliance** (WAWA) and the City of Atlanta's neighborhood planning unit (NPU) I. Workshop participants, **Ella Yates and Hilda Morrison** (see page 7) described how poor construction practices can severely damage neighboring properties and streams. For more than 7 years, they have complained to the City of Atlanta about an adjacent development, **Knob Hill**, that sends muddy water onto their properties and into a nearby tributary to Utoy Creek every time it rains. After seeing the damage, Riverkeeper contacted the City, the State EPD and the developer. In response, the City ordered the developer last month to stop work on the site until best management practices complied with local and state erosion control requirements. Nothing has changed, therefore, Riverkeeper and **Southern Environmental Law Center** are investigating a possible legal action against the developer.



THE RIVERKEEPER STAFF

www.chattahoochee.org

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EPA GRANT SUPPORTS RIVERKEEPER'S STUDY OF DRINKING WATER SOURCE IN HABERSHAM

Outbreaks in water borne diseases, such as the 1993 *Cryptosporidium* scare in Milwaukee, have raised consumer concerns about the safety of our drinking water. More and more people across the country are drinking bottled water, wary of what might be lurking in their tap.

Governmental agencies have taken several steps to address this apprehension. The **Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)**, administered by the U.S. EPA, requires every public water supplier to produce and distribute "consumer confidence" or "right-to-know" reports. These reports explain what contaminants (if any) have been found in the treated drinking water and the potential health threats associated with such contaminants. The SDWA also requires states to perform a "**Source Water Assessment Program**" that fosters partnerships to identify local drinking water supply watersheds, potential sources of contamination, and the susceptibility of these sources to contaminants.



Riverkeeper staffer Kristin Costley samples sediment in the Soque watershed.

Grant Focuses on Clarkesville's Drinking Water Supply—the Upper Soque

Riverkeeper was awarded a grant from the U.S. EPA to evaluate Georgia's drinking water supply protection measures in a rural watershed. **Kristin Costley**, a fisheries biologist, was hired as our source water specialist to manage this project, which focuses on the Soque River—provider of drinking water to 1600 customers through the city of Clarkesville system. Upstream of Lake Lanier, the Soque has been targeted by Riverkeeper for community-based education and restoration programs under the leadership of **Katherine Baer**, our Director of Headwaters Conservation. Existing regulations required by the state and adopted by Habersham County in 1992 designate the Soque as a "water supply watershed"—a classification which triggers requirements such as limits on impervious surfaces and setbacks from waterways.

Despite the largely rural nature of the watershed, even the Soque is not immune to pollution problems, such as excessive sediment. A 1997 EPA study showed that the Soque sends the Chattahoochee the highest sediment load of any tributary between the river's headwaters and Highway 384, several miles above Lake Lanier. Although Clarkesville does not currently report treatment problems due to high sediment loads, projected future growth rates in the area give cause for concern. Sediment from uncontrolled development can result in higher treatment costs due

to clogged filters and the need to remove pollutants transported by sediment particles.

Source Water Project Goals

The first goal of the Soque Source Water Project is to develop a detailed assessment of sediment sources in the Upper Soque River watershed (91 square miles). A digital GIS database (e.g., land use and cover, livestock and poultry operations, road conditions, septic systems, etc.) will be developed by **Gainesville College** and used to create maps identifying the areas contributing the most sediment to the Soque.

Water quality sampling will be conducted at ten different sites within the Soque watershed to determine sediment yield from different subwatersheds. Regulatory decisions made by Habersham County pursuant to water supply protection requirements for developments and agricultural operations will be reviewed for consistency. Results from the evaluation will support a modified strategy to protect Clarkesville's drinking water supply. A comprehensive watershed management plan will be developed in cooperation with **Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center** to serve as a model regulation for both the Clarkesville and other rural water supply watersheds in north Georgia. Finally,

Riverkeeper will work with the **Soque River Watershed Association (SRWA)** to develop protection strategy outreach materials for watershed residents. An "awareness survey" will be distributed to determine residents' familiarity with the water supply watershed regulations. SRWA and Riverkeeper will also design media materials and hold two workshops to educate watershed residents concerning protection options.

Sprawling development, increased water demands, and high growth rate projections in the Chattahoochee's headwaters all threaten the quality of our drinking water. We now know that it is much less costly in terms of dollars and public health to prevent pollution at the (drinking water) source, rather than treat it at the end of the pipe.



State Approves Gwinnett Wastewater Discharge into Lake Lanier

Gwinnett County has been working for several years to secure a permit from the state EPD to discharge 40 million gallons a day of treated wastewater into Lake Lanier to accommodate the county's anticipated growth. For the past fifteen years, the state banned discharges into Lanier, therefore, this permit represents a *major* departure from state policy.

Lake Water Quality Standards and Wasteload Allocation Approved

Despite some technical concerns from Riverkeeper, Lake Lanier Association and others, the **Department of Natural Resources Board** approved water quality standards for Lake Lanier for a suite of parameters earlier this year. From these standards, EPD then set a *wasteload allocation* (the total amount of a certain pollutant that can enter a waterbody) for the nutrient phosphorus. The wasteload allocation is divided into an allocation for *point* sources and an allocation for *nonpoint* sources, which are both capped at current levels.

Any additional point source discharge, such as Gwinnett's, must be offset by a reduction from another discharger. In fact, the proposed Gwinnett permit specifically requires a reduction in phosphorus from other wastewater treatment plants (i.e., the city of Gainesville which currently discharges into Lanier), before Gwinnett's effluent can be discharged.

Outstanding Environmental Issues

Following issuance by the state of a draft wastewater permit, a lengthy public hearing was held in mid-September. Riverkeeper testified at the hearing, outlining our objections to the permit, and we provided extensive written comments. A primary concern of Riverkeeper's and fisheries biologists related to the temperature of the discharge and its effect on aquatic life in the lake and downstream of Buford Dam. Gwinnett's effluent was proposed to discharge into the *hypolimnion* (the bottom and cooler and less oxygenated portion of the lake). Further discussions with state biologists led Gwinnett County to agree to move the outfall to a location nearer the surface, where the state biologists believe there will be minimal, if any, negative impacts on fisheries.

Another important issue relates to mitigation of nonpoint source pollution. EPD now requires local governments to implement a

"watershed protection plan" as a permit condition; however, provisions in the proposed Gwinnett permit do not adequately address the increases in growth, and thus increased nonpoint source runoff, that will accompany the increase in sewage capacity allowed by a new Gwinnett permit. Other outstanding issues include whether the discharge will increase phosphorus levels in the Lake over time, whether the Plant can consistently meet its required permit limits (i.e., its engineering reliability), and the fact that no TMDL allocation has been performed for Lanier which is on the state's list of impaired waters for metals and fish consumption guidelines.

Finally, we remain concerned that EPD has indicated that it will not give the public an additional opportunity to comment on revisions made to the permit. Riverkeeper and others will consider a legal challenge to the state's action if the final permit does not adequately address our concerns.

Note: The State EPD issued a final permit to Gwinnett County on November 9. For a copy, contact Riverkeeper 404-352-9828, ext. 24.



On Saturday, October 14th, volunteers from Riverkeeper, Team Bank of America Environmental Network and Brandon Hall School pitched in to clean up an unnamed tributary to Nancy Creek, as part of Rivers Alive—the Ninth Annual Georgia River Cleanup.

GEORGIA POWER'S FALL-LINE DAMS UP FOR RE-LICENSING

For the past year, Riverkeeper has participated in the relicensing process for the **Middle Chattahoochee Project** (MCP), a series of three Georgia Power Company (GPC) dams on the mainstem of the Chattahoochee River between West Point Lake and Columbus. All private hydropower projects need a license, issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), to operate. The MCP license expires in 2005, and FERC, before reissuing the license, must consider the full range of impacts associated with hydropower operations in this reach of the river. Relicensing provides an excellent opportunity for the river conservation community

to *restore and protect flows, water quality, habitat, and recreational access* in the reaches affected by hydropower operations.

Conservation Groups Oppose Amendments to Existing Dam Licenses

Recently, GPC applied to FERC to amend the existing MCP license and allow GPC to increase hydraulic capacity at the Goat Rock facility and increase water withdrawal at Lake Oliver. Riverkeeper, together with the **Chattahoochee Riverkeeper** (based in Columbus), **Alabama Rivers Alliance** and **American Rivers**, opposed these amendment applications on the grounds that they run con-

trary to the purpose and spirit of the relicensing, which is to consider the cumulative impacts of the MCP on the Chattahoochee River from existing hydropower operations.

Simply put, seeking to amend the existing license while in the midst of a relicensing process is akin to changing the rules of a game while it is already in progress. In partnership with the above conservation groups, Riverkeeper intervened in the amendments, recommending that FERC reject GPC's applications and incorporate the proposed operational changes into the ongoing relicensing process. For more information: www.hrs@americanrivers.org.

Nightmare on Oriole Street

Until the early 90s, neighbors **Hilda Morrison** and **Ella Yates** lived on a peaceful, pleasant cul-de-sac on Oriole Drive in southwest Atlanta. Since then, however, their neighborhood has been transformed into a messy, muddy nightmare that painfully illustrates the inadequacy of the state's erosion and sedimentation control laws and enforcement.

In the early 90s, a developer began clearing some eleven acres adjacent to the Morrison and Yates homes. Steep and wooded, the only suitable entry to the property was through Yates' backyard. Seeking a roadway to the new home sites, the developer arranged to purchase part of Yates property in exchange for providing sewer lines to the Yates home.

"It's the worse mistake I've ever made in my whole life," Yates said of the transaction. "One lesson I've learned is that if you have land, don't let them have it—make no commitments to developers for any land."

Walls of Streaming Mud

The fallout from the transaction and subsequent nine years of on-again-off-again development has been devastating. The entire nine acres of property was cleared to the ground almost seven years ago. Since then heavy rains have sent walls of mud streaming through the yards of Yates and Morrison, flooding basements and garages,



Hilda Morrison and Ella Yates

ruining carpet, uprooting trees and completely silting in a small tributary of Utoy Creek. Morrison estimates that loses and repairs to her property as a result of the muddy runoff exceed \$10,000.

Both Morrison and Yates have tried repeatedly to remedy the situation through the City of Atlanta, but each time their efforts were met with inaction. The frustration from the seven-year ordeal has been such that Morrison literally began losing her hair.

"I've lived here for 27 years. The last seven have been a nightmare," she said. "As far as I'm concerned there are no safeguards. No one did anything to protect me until Riverkeeper came along. They have been on top of it. They promised something and they have delivered."

The neighbors attended a Riverkeeper seminar on sedimentation and erosion in September, bringing with them photographs of their property. Since that meeting, they say, they've started to see some action.

A stop-work order was recently placed on the property and authorities forced the developer to seed and straw the raw land.

"I was so glad we found Riverkeeper, I didn't know what to do," Yates said.

Contributed by Joe Cook

WATER BILL OF RIGHTS

Continued from page 1

expand the Chattahoochee's wastewater capacity. The majority of the 37 business representatives voted for a final recommendation which recommends the creation of a Metro Atlanta Water Planning District governed by a 35-member board with a majority of local government officials. (See www.cleanwaterinitiative.com for more details.)

Four members of the CWI, including Riverkeeper Board Chair Rutherford Seydel, voted against the final recommendation and developed a minority opinion for inclusion in the final report that will be presented to Governor Barnes. The Governor has said that he will be offering a water bill during the 2001 session of the General Assembly. We hope that Governor Barnes will keep the principles of the Water Bill of Rights in mind as he proposes this legislation.

OUR GOAL IS 1 MILLION SUPPORTERS OF THE GEORGIA WATER BILL OF RIGHTS (WBOR) BY DECEMBER 2000!

- Sign onto the WBOR at www.GeorgiaWaterRights.net, or call Riverkeeper at 404-352-9828 (ext 24) for a copy of the WBOR and to sign on.
- Ask your local officials to encourage your city and/or county to pass a resolution endorsing the WBOR
- Present the WBOR to your community, religious and school groups for endorsement.

RIVERBANK GETS A HELPING HAND FROM TBS



Fighting a light rain and tangled kudzu vines, sixty hardy volunteers from **Turner Broadcasting System, Inc.** planted 170 trees along the Chattahoochee in early September, finally completing a project initiated by Riverkeeper five years ago. In 1995, we began working with **C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.** to clean up its asphalt recycling facility on the river in Cobb County. This project resulted in the removal of tons of asphalt and other debris from the riverbank and the construction of a detention pond to control stormwater runoff from this industrial site. The white ash, river birch, red maple, black gum, and sycamore trees, selected with the guidance of pro bono consultant **Jordan, Jones and Goulding** and coordinated by JJ&G employee **Christine Magnarella**, will help to further stabilize the riverbank. TBS's crew volunteered in conjunction with **Turner Volunteer Day**, a company-wide event aimed at giving back to the community. With the tree-planting ranked as one of the most popular of the TBS Volunteer Day projects, we look forward to finding another job for the Turner volunteers next year!

Chattahoochee Bacteria Alert Network Created

As part of the **Partnership for Regional Livability (PRL)**, a public-private initiative aimed at protecting the Chattahoochee River corridor, Riverkeeper collaborated this fall with the **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)** and **National Park Service (NPS)** to implement a bacteria monitoring program for the Chattahoochee River in and around metropolitan Atlanta.

The purpose of the monitoring program is twofold: (1) to inform the public about bacteria levels in the river as it flows through the **Chattahoochee National Recreation Area (CRNRA)** and (2) to develop a data set that will eventually enable USGS to establish "predictors" for

bacteria concentrations in the river. Water samples are collected by Riverkeeper and the National Park Service at Paces Ferry Road and the Medlock Bridge CRNRA Unit, respectively, four times per week and transported by couriers from **Intown Express** to the USGS District Office in Norcross.

The samples are then analyzed by USGS using a new method that significantly reduces processing time, meaning that daily monitoring results will be made available (both on the World Wide Web at several CRNRA Units) within 36 hours of collection. The samples are analyzed for total coliform bacteria and *Escherichia coli* bacteria (*E. coli*). While samples are not analyzed for fecal coliform, *E. coli* has been approved by EPA as an indicator of fecal contamination in water. Riverkeeper hopes that this program both strengthens ties with federal resource agencies and enables paddlers, anglers, and others recreating in the CRNRA to make educated choices about health risks associated with water quality impairment in the Chattahoochee River.

GOOD NEWS!!

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper was one of two nonprofit conservation organizations in Georgia honored by the U.S. EPA-Region IV with a **2000 Environmental Merit Award** for "outstanding efforts in preserving the environment of the Southeast." **Sally Bethea** and **Katherine Baer**, our Director of Headwaters Conservation whose Soque River restoration project was recognized by EPA, were on hand to receive the award at an impressive ceremony held at the Carter Center in Atlanta.

Long-time Riverkeeper staffer **Alice Champagne**, our Watershed Protection Specialist, was elected this fall to be a District Supervisor for the **Cobb County Soil and Water Conservation District**. An environmental engineer whose candidacy was endorsed by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Alice will be working with the County to improve its soil and water resources during her 4-year term which will include oversight of local erosion control enforcement programs and advice to the Georgia Soil and Water Commission. During the past two years, Alice has educated more than 1000 people through Riverkeeper's Soil Watch Workshops which trains citizens to help monitor development for compliance with erosion control laws.



USGS Scientist trains Riverkeeper staff in monitoring techniques.

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- I would like to volunteer my time to help the Riverkeeper. Please get in touch with me.
 Please make checks payable to: **Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper**
 Contributions to the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Fund are tax-deductible.
 Riverkeeper is a 501(c)(3) organization. Quarterly newsletters are provided to members and other subscribers.

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 1900 Emery St. Suite 450
 Atlanta, GA 30318

ACTION ALERT

WRITE TODAY!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WANTS *YOUR* IDEAS ON CHATTAHOOCHEE PARK MANAGEMENT

The **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area** (CRNRA) was established in 1978 to preserve a 48-mile section of the Chattahoochee from Buford Dam to Peachtree Creek in Atlanta, as well as thousands of acres adjacent to the river. According to the National Park Service, the main objective of the CRNRA is to ensure that this land will remain designated as "green areas" which are protected from development and other uses that could damage the river and its tributaries.

In October, six public meetings were held to allow citizens the opportunity to voice their thoughts, opinions and concerns regarding the *future management* of the CRNRA. With funds raised for the **Chattahoochee Land Acquisition Campaign**, additional lands are being purchased to expand the park from its current 5000 acres which are located in 16 separate management units along the river.

The National Park Service (NPS) is compiling the information gathered during these meetings and incorporating it into an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which will be used in the drafting

process of the General Management Plan (GMP). In turn, the GMP will provide methods for continued preservation, resolving potential issues (e.g., trail use), minimizing conflicts, and promoting future enjoyment of the park for all.

There is still time to make a difference and the NPS is encouraging citizens to participate in this process. *Written comments will be accepted until **December 4, 2000** with additional public meetings scheduled upon the release of the GMP/EIS draft in 2001.*

Please help the CRNRA develop a successful management plan by sending your written comments and ideas to:

Mr. Kevin Cheri, Superintendent
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
1978 Island Ford Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30350-3400
Phone: 770.399.8070 FAX: 770-392-7042



Reclaiming Our River

1900 Emery St. Suite 450 Atlanta, Georgia 30318
404 352-9828

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the protection of the Chattahoochee River,
its tributaries and watershed.*

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