

RIVER CHAT

RIVER COALITION FILES SUIT AGAINST ATLANTA

RAIN SPAWNED BY HURRICANE OPAL CAUSED MASSIVE FLOODING IN ATLANTA in early October and underscored how very foolish it is to build in floodplains. Television footage and newspaper photos showed the evacuation of hundreds of homes along the swelling Chattahoochee and its tributaries as the River crested twenty feet above normal.

No one showed, or seemed to be aware of, another kind of devastation—in this case, to the water quality in the Chattahoochee River itself when Atlanta's R.M. Clayton wastewater treatment plant, the largest facility in the southeast, shut down. Unable to treat and discharge the 230 million gallons of sewage and polluted stormwater that surged toward it, the Clayton plant bypassed the *entire* volume into the River.

This doesn't just happen during hurricanes. On average, the Clayton plant must bypass its "secondary" treatment processes 3-4 times per month due to the facility's inability to handle the quantity of sewage and stormwater piped to it from development in the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, DeKalb County and other jurisdictions.

Six Years and Millions Of Dollars Later, The City Is No Closer To Eliminating Sewage Bypasses And Meeting Phosphorus Standards

Since 1989, Atlanta has been under pressure to develop a long-range wastewater plan to handle bypass problems and meet state-mandated phosphorus limits critical to the protection of West Point Lake. Alternative solutions considered by the City, have included (1) the construction of an 8-mile tunnel from the City's Clayton plant to its Utoy treatment plant to transport partially treated sewage, (2) a major expansion of the Clayton plant, and (3) various "alternative technologies."

What Is Atlanta Paying A \$9,000 A Day Fine For?

Not for any of the violations alleged in the River Coalition's lawsuit. The City of Atlanta, is paying this daily penalty (more than \$4.5 million to date) for not completing treatment systems for the Clear Creek and Utoy Creek combined sewer overflows (CSOs). The violations alleged in the Coalition's lawsuit concern three on-line CSO treatment facilities on Proctor and Tanyard Creeks.

On October 10, the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Fund and eleven other plaintiffs (see page 2) filed suit against the City of Atlanta in U.S. District Court under the citizen-suit provisions of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).

Allegations include the City's failure to upgrade its sewage treatment facilities to meet water quality standards and adequately operate and maintain the City's three on-line combined sewer overflow (CSO) facilities on Tanyard and Proctor Creeks. (Due to power outages, these three CSO facilities also bypassed their brew of sewage, industrial waste and stormwater during Hurricane Opal.)

At this time, it is not the goal of the plaintiffs to advocate any particular solution to these problems, but rather to advocate the most *reasonable* and *effective* solutions that can be implemented in the shortest period of time. It is our goal to have the Court 1] order the City to provide whatever improvements are necessary

See COALITION, page 2

THE RIVER MATTERS

Riverkeeper Town Hall Meeting in Helen November 9

Sautee-Nacoochee Community Center (see pg. 7).

Learn How to Monitor your Neighborhood Creek. November 18

Free water quality workshops offered by Riverkeeper and Alpharetta's "Project Ripple." Call 442-9057 to register.

Riverkeeper Brown Bag Lunch January 25

Slide show: Travel the entire length of the Chattahoochee with photographers Joe and Monica Cook.



Great Gift Ideas

Give a RIVERKEEPER MEMBERSHIP to friends and family.

Make a contribution in someone's name.

Buy a T-SHIRT for a stocking stuffer.

see page 7 for more details

Reflections

From the first time I heard **John Cronin's** story about the building of the Hudson Riverkeeper boat, I wondered how and when our Chattahoochee ship would come in.

A year ago, a generous donation of an Old Town canoe by **Brenda Burnette** and **Dewey Tate** put us on the River with grace, but not much speed. We were able to hitch rides from time to time on the motorized boats of friends like **Chris Scalley** and **Taylor Glover**. Now, finally, we have our Chattahoochee Riverkeeper boat, and our own wonderful story behind it.

Like many of our success stories, this tale began with a call from an individual who wanted to help us protect the River. With his skills as a boat-builder and job as an editor of *Boater's World* magazine, **Billy Sims** offered much to Riverkeeper's efforts.

First, Billy approached **SeaArk Boats** of Monticello, Arkansas and asked them to build Riverkeeper a 16-foot jonboat made of recycled aluminum. They agreed. Then, he secured a jet-drive motor, loaned by **Tohatsu** and specially suited to the rocky and shallow waters of the Hooch. Billy drove to Arkansas to pick up our boat in time so we could christen it at Riverkeeper's Second Annual Benefit held in early August. A job opportunity has taken Billy Sims from the Chattahoochee to Charleston, but he clearly left great contributions behind him.

How do you find a volunteer licensed boat captain when you need one? Depend on the city of Atlanta to attract a *key man*. **Harlan Trammell** moved to Atlanta last spring from the Florida Keys where he ran a charter fishing boat. His assistance has helped pick up where Billy left off. When Harlan is not helping Riverkeeper learn how to operate and maintain its boat, he can be found guiding fishing trips on the Chattahoochee in his amazing handmade boat, named *Slainte* (an Irish toast to one's good health).

Our new boat is helping us monitor the Chattahoochee more effectively. Look for us on the River!

Sally Bethea
RIVERKEEPER

Cookin' On The River

When was the last time you went to a cocktail party with world class kayakers, fly-casting trout fishermen, the first woman to ever paddle down the entire length of the Chattahoochee, and a river running by it? Probably last August, when Riverkeeper held its Second Annual Benefit at the highly anticipated new restaurant **Canoe**, located on the River at Paces Ferry in Vinings.

The successful *What's Cookin' on the River?* fundraiser, featured the culinary talents of well-known Chef **Gerry Klaskala**, and raised more than **\$40,000** for Riverkeeper's legal action program and other ongoing river protection projects. Corporate sponsors **Cox Enterprises, Inc.**, **Price Waterhouse**, and **Post Properties, Inc.** generously backed the event which was attended by more than 650 supporters.

A highlight of the evening was the christening of the new Riverkeeper boat and jet-drive motor donated by **SeaArk Boats** and **Tohatsu**, respectively (see *Reflections*, this page). **Laura Turner Seydel** did the honors by cracking a champagne bottle over the bow of the boat. The resulting small dent (due to a particularly bold vintage)

offers an unusual reminder of the successful party.

Event co-chairs **Laura and Rutherford Seydel** were assisted in the promotion of the fundraiser by a Host Committee of forty individuals and couples, including **Canoe** partners **George McKerrow Jr.**, **Ron Scharbo**, **Gerry Glaskala** and **Ron San Martin**.

The benefit's highly creative "map" invitation was designed by **Donahue Studios** and the printing and paper donated by **Delta Printing Company**. **The Lovett School** provided shuttle parking. The evening mist was provided by **the River**.



THE RIVERKEEPER STAFF

Sally Bethea Executive Director and Riverkeeper
David Moore General Counsel
Alice Champagne Assistant To The Riverkeeper
 and Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator
Mary Johnson Staff Attorney and Permit Monitoring
 Project
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Coalition Suit Against Atlanta

Continued from page 1.

to the sewage treatment plants and the CSOs to ensure that proper treatment is given to the effluent at those locations, 2] assess penalties against Atlanta for its

prior failure to comply with requirements of the CWA and to ensure the City's future compliance with the law, and 3] impose a moratorium on new sewer hookups if the City fails to take appropriate steps in a timely and responsible fashion.

UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER ET AL. VS. CITY OF ATLANTA

Plaintiffs

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
 Fund, Inc. (based in Atlanta)
 The Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Inc.
 (based in Columbus)
 City of LaGrange
 Heard County
 Troup County
 Harris County

City of West Point
 City of Hogansville
 LaGrange-Troup Chamber of Commerce
 Lake Harding Association
 Jack Baytos, West Point Lake
 marina owner
 Robert Hancock, riverfront property
 owner in Heard County

Riverkeeper's Legal Action Program

DEFENDANT	BACKGROUND	STATUS
C.W. MATTHEWS CONTRACTING CO.	On June 5, 1995, Riverkeeper filed a notice of intent to sue the C.W. Matthews asphalt facility near Bolton Road in Atlanta under the Clean Water Act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act for discharge of asphalt and polluted stormwater from its plant (See <i>RiverChat, Summer 95</i>).	Negotiations are underway regarding control technology and riverbank revegetation. Adequacy of proposed stormwater control plans is being assessed by Riverkeeper's technical experts.
CITY OF ATLANTA	Atlanta has failed to address its longstanding phosphorus discharge and combined sewer overflow (CSO) problems. Riverkeeper and a group of cities and counties downstream are suing to force the city to clean up its sewage treatment plants and stop near-raw sewage from flowing into the Chattahoochee from Atlanta (see page 1).	Complaint was filed October 10, 1995. Riverkeeper is challenging the State's recent enforcement actions that, we believe, threaten to delay resolution of the City's pollution problems. Riverkeeper is seeking funds to support our legal battle in this very important case.
GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION	In May 1995, EPD illegally issued a general variance, by memo, exempting broad classes of development and construction from buffer requirements of the State Erosion and Sedimentation Act. Riverkeeper joins The Conservation Society, Inc. and Terry Hughey in this action.	Case filed July 28, 1995. State's motion to dismiss was denied, and Riverkeeper's motion for summary judgment is under consideration by Judge Dickerson.
CITY OF CORNELIA	Notice of intent to sue filed September 28, 1995 for five continuous years of permit violations, including very high nitrogen, suspended solids, and low dissolved oxygen, discharged into a tributary of the Chattahoochee in Habersham County.	Recent discharge monitoring reports indicate nitrogen problem is continuing. EPD sources indicate another (third) consent "order" will be issued to Cornelia. The last two "orders" merely removed all nitrogen limits from the permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION CLINIC WELCOMES EMORY SCHOOL OF LAW

Beginning in January 1996, Riverkeeper's already vigorous Legal Action Program will get a huge boost. **Emory School of Law** students will join Riverkeeper's Environmental Litigation Clinic, where they will handle citizen suits under the Clean Water Act, RCRA, and other environmental statutes. The Environmental Litigation Clinic is modeled after Pace University School of Law's very successful clinic directed by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Karl Coplan. In addition to cleaning up the environment, Riverkeeper plans to educate young law students in the successful prosecution of environmental cases. "We hope to encourage more young lawyers to practice environmental law and show them the rewards of representing citizens and protecting the environment," says Dave Moore, Riverkeeper General Counsel. Dave will be joined by **Don Chenevert** of Lord, Bissell & Brook in directing the clinic. Don is an Emory School of Law graduate with a great commitment to the environment who has been with Riverkeeper's Legal Advisory Committee since its inception. Although the clinic docket is already filling up with all of the many enforcement actions that are needed on the Chattahoochee River, Riverkeeper members are encouraged to contact Dave or Don with potential cases or ideas.

Did you Know...

Did you know that hundreds of different toxic pollutants are discharged into the Chattahoochee River above the drinking water intakes for Atlanta, LaGrange, and Columbus? These discharges are legal under the Industrial Discharge and Industrial Pretreatment programs run by the State of Georgia's Environmental Protection Division, and largely in compliance with issued permits. Fifty-two industries are permitted to discharge industrial chemicals, oil and grease, and/or metals into the Hooch from its headwaters to West Point Lake; many more discharge industrial chemicals through our sewage treatment plants. A review of permits indicates that toxins like chromium, lead, cadmium, phenols, benzenecompounds, and cyanide were among the discharges. Similar toxins are discharged into the Hooch through runoff and non-point sources. Is our drinking water supply safe? Riverkeeper is looking into the issue and taking action.

ADOPT-A-STREAM

Individual and Community Chattahoochee Groups Unite!

The Georgia Adopt-a-Stream program developed and administered by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) promotes citizen involvement in learning about and protecting our state's water resources. Started in 1993, the state program provides excellent materials and training necessary for interested citizens to monitor the health of their community streams.

Currently, there are twenty-nine active community/individual adopt-a-stream groups and local government programs in the

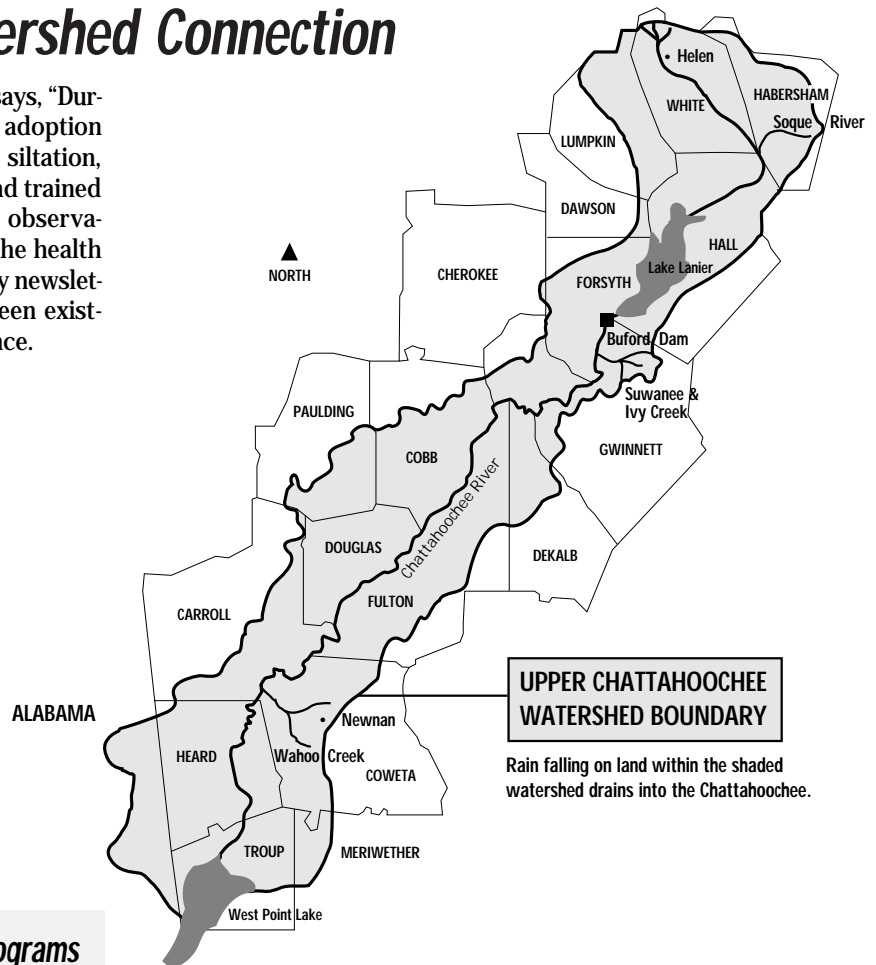
Upper Chattahoochee River basin (from the town of Helen to West Point Lake — see map below). A new Riverkeeper initiative, funded by **The Turner Foundation**, centers on the creation of an information network to connect and assist these existing stream programs throughout the Chattahoochee watershed. Working closely with state Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator Laurie Hawks, Riverkeeper will focus additional attention on areas which have no current volunteer monitoring programs with a goal of creating new local and county groups.

Network Emphasizes Watershed Connection

Riverkeeper Network Coordinator Alice Champagne says, "During the first year, streams will be identified by need for adoption based on the threat to the resource (e.g., development, siltation, excessive nutrients) and volunteers will be recruited and trained for those specific sites." Water quality data, as well as observational information, will be gathered to help determine the health of the tributaries to the Chattahoochee River. A quarterly newsletter will be published to enhance communication between existing groups and to provide them with technical assistance.

The long-term goals of the Adopt-A-Stream Network include: increasing awareness of local water quality conditions, and compiling a database of water quality information which can be used to document trends in the condition of streams in the Chattahoochee watershed, identifying threats, and emphasizing the relationship between all waterways within the Chattahoochee system. Riverkeeper will use the information gathered by volunteer monitors as a component of its advocacy program by informing government agencies who make decisions regarding land and water uses.

Call Alice Champagne at the Riverkeeper office for more information (404-816-9888). Call Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Coordinator Laurie Hawks (404-656-4988) for information on the state program.



Existing Local Government Adopt-A-Stream Programs In Upper Chattahoochee Basin

Fulton County	Donna Black	404-730-7545
Hall County	Diana Dean	404-531-3967
Gwinnett County	Steve Cannon	404-822-7175
Douglas County	Teri Cole	770-949-7617
City of Roswell	Nancy Womack	404-641-3743
City of Alpharetta	Dee West	404-442-9057
City of Atlanta	Paul Thomas	404-330-6783

STREAMS AVAILABLE FOR IMMEDIATE ADOPTION

Soque River · Habersham County
Suwanee and Ivy Creeks · Gwinnett County
Wahoo Creek · Coweta County

Anne Gale

LONGTIME WHITEWATER OUTFITTER

ON A SUMMER WEEKEND IN THE EARLY 1970s, ANNE GALE AND HER FAMILY engaged in some simple market research. They headed to Helen in a Suburban toting a trailer rack full of canoes rented from an Atlanta outdoor store. Then, they drove around the Alpine village in search of visitors interested in canoe trips down the Upper Chattahoochee's whitewater.



© Joe & Monica Cook, 1995

That day, they rented every canoe they had, and soon after they traded their riverside home in Atlanta for a new life in Helen where they set up the Wildwood Shop, an outdoor store and whitewater outfitter.

Still Going Strong After 21 Years On The Upper Hooch

Today, after 21 years of business, Gale, a grandmother to seven, still lifts canoes over her head and onto trailer

racks from March to October during the whitewater season at her Duncan Bridge outpost. Each season the outpost sends more than 5,000 people down the 5 and 10 mile whitewater runs between Ga. 255 and Duncan Bridge.

For her customers, the Upper Hooch is a delightful playground filled with challenging rapids. For Anne Gale, the ties go deeper. It is her livelihood. When the river dries up as it did during the drought of 1988, her business also dries up. She's one of the many who have a vested interest in the health of the river. The river provides the fun; she provides the means to reach it. "It's my bread and butter," she said.

To discover a picturesque stretch of water and seek a little thrill, check out the Upper Hooch. No guides are required on the 10-mile stretch dotted with Class I and II rapids. Rafts, canoes, kayaks and shuttle services are available through Wildwood Outfitters daily from April through October and weekends during March. For information, call the Outpost at 706-865-4451.

Contributed by Joe Cook.

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Headwaters TOWN HALL MEETING In Helen

Hear Ye, Hear Ye... Riverkeeper invites all to a town hall meeting in Helen to talk about the health of the upper portions of the Chattahoochee watershed (upstream of Lake Lanier).

In cooperation with the **Sautee-Nacoochee Community Association**, this evening event is planned to be fun and informative. From 6-7 p.m., a pot-luck supper will be hosted at the Sautee-Nacoochee Community Center (283 Highway 255, Sautee, Ga.). A short presentation by Riverkeeper Sally Bethea will be followed by an informal discussion forum. During this session, we hope to secure a better understanding of the community's concerns for the Chattahoochee River, as well as new ideas for protecting the River and its tributaries. We will also offer opportunities for involvement in Riverkeeper's programs.

Beginning at 8 p.m., there will be a special treat in the form of a slide presentation by **Joe and Monica Cook**, the intrepid photographers who last traveled through Helen by canoe last April at the start of their 100-day journey down the entire length of the Chattahoochee. Call Riverkeeper 404-816-9888 or the Community Center 706-878-3300 for additional information.

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STREAM LINES

SPOTLIGHT ON WEST POINT LAKE

On September 25, 1995, Congressman Bob Barr convened a meeting of the West Point Lake Water Quality Task Force to discuss the "future viability" of the Lake. This Task Force, previously supported by past-Congressman Buddy Darden, is chaired by Dr. Walter Murphy of LaGrange College and Riverkeeper Sally Bethea is a member of the group. Although Cong. Barr did not attend the meeting, his representative stated that Barr "emphatically supports the lawsuit against Atlanta" (see page 1), as being critical to the cleanup of the Chattahoochee River and West Point Lake.

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency presented information concerning nutrient enrichment problems associated with upstream pollution affecting West Point Lake. Dr. Harry McGinnis of the A.L. Burrus Institute at Kennesaw College discussed his analysis of the economic impact of West Point Lake on surrounding communities. Funded by an appropriation from the Georgia General Assembly, this study showed that significant income, in excess of \$125 million, is generated by lake-associated activities.

DIRTY WATER BILL MOVES TO SENATE

The Congressional focus on reauthorizing, or renewing, the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) shifted to gutting the Act with the drafting of the "Dirty Water Bill" (H.R. 961), legislation which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in May. The Senate has yet to take action on the proposed legislation, which greatly reduces any ability to control the discharge of toxic pollutants; allows for more sewage pollution; and reduces wetlands protection, among other decreases in water protection.

Senator Chafee, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, (the Senate oversight committee which will draft any Senate bills on the CWA), says that he will introduce legislation by the end of this calendar year. Committee hearings have been indefinitely postponed so we still have time to contact our Senators to voice our objections to the Dirty Water Bill or any similar legislation. Contact Senator Coverdell at 404-347-2202 and Senator Nunn at 404-331-4811.



TRI-STATE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY EDGES TOWARD COMPLETION

In 1992, the states of Georgia, Alabama and Florida signed a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Corps of Engineers to lay down their legal "swords" in the so-called "water wars" and comprehensively study the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin. The Goal: To develop a mechanism to share the limited water resources between competing demands without jeopardizing water quality. The Premise: More scientific data would lead to consensus and better decision-making.

Three years into the Comp Study, with an additional year tacked on prior to completion (now scheduled for September 1996), the prognosis is not good. All parties are skeptical that the study goals will be met. While additional scientific data will undoubtedly prove useful in understanding the dynamics of the ACF River Basin, it remains to be seen whether the three states can agree on any coordination mechanism to share the rivers. Riverkeeper is represented on the Governor's Tri-state Advisory Council which meets every other month to review study progress.

Second Annual Chattahoochee Challenge Survives Hurricane

Two days after hurricane-force winds hit Atlanta, Riverkeeper and the Atlanta Center for Excellence sponsored the second annual Chattahoochee Challenge Race and River Awareness Festival. With the race course moved upstream due to flooding at Paces Mill Park, kayakers and canoeists faced a less exciting, but still challenging, run from Johnson Ferry to Powers Island, the location of the festival.

Special thanks to Chattahoochee Challenge sponsors **Nationsbank**, **Georgia Power Company**, and the **Captain Planet Foundation**.

Additional thanks to **FOX97**, the **National Park Service**, **Low Country Barbeque**, boat captain **Harlan Trammell**, and photographer **Bard Wisley**.

Look for an even bigger event next year!



Photographs © Bard Wisley, 1995

FISHING, BOATING OR TUBING BEWARE THE BUFORD DAM RELEASES!

This article was contributed by Trout Unlimited member Bob Beck, an early Riverkeeper supporter. Bob will serve as the next president of the Georgia Council of Trout Unlimited beginning in 1996.

As everyone knows, the Chattahoochee River is a tailwater (below dam) trout fishery. We wouldn't have trout in the River without the cold water releases from Buford Dam. Normal run-of-the-river flows from Buford Dam are about 400 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is the safe water level that we and the fish love.

The river section between Buford Dam and Morgan Falls changes personality when water is released from Buford Dam for power generation, flood control and downstream navigation. Full water release from Buford Dam is about 8,000 cfs. The River at this flow level is extremely dangerous. In the Buford Dam to Highway 20 section, the water rises 10 to 15 feet! As the river widens downstream, the rise in water level flattens out. At Jones Bridge, the water will rise 2 to 5 feet.

TIP #1: It takes about six hours for the water to reach Jones Bridge Park and about twelve hours to reach Morgan Falls. To get

the scheduled time for the water release, call Buford Dam at 945-1466. Judge your fishing time accordingly. Always remember that schedules can change.

TIP #2: The water rises rapidly, but is slow to drop back to its normal run-of-the-river flow. The water is usually still high at Jones Bridge on Saturday morning from the water release Friday afternoon.

TIP #3: Know about when the water is going to rise where you are fishing, then start looking over your shoulder. Pay attention to the rocks, water noise and increase in the current. When the water starts to come up, reel in and head for the bank without delay. You can always finish fishing from the bank in safety. Getting stranded in the River or washed downstream is no fun, not to mention life-threatening.

TIP #4: You can safely fish below Morgan Falls from a float tube when the stream flow is low to medium. Do not attempt to float this section when the flow level is high. For water level information below Morgan Falls Dam call 329-1455.

MAKE RIVERKEEPER'S HOLIDAY WISH COME TRUE

We love our **Tohatsu** Motor, on loan through December. Attached to our **SeaArk** Boat, it takes us anywhere we need to go on the Hooch. Come winter, we'll be without our motor and without a way to spot problems on the River. Please help us buy a new one. Make an end-of-year, tax-deductible contribution to the **Riverkeeper Boat Fund**, P.O. Box 7338, Atlanta, Georgia 30357. Telephone 404-816-9888.

Trout Fishing in Smithgall Woods

The public is now allowed to fish more than a dozen native trout streams in the Chattahoochee River headwaters within the **Smithgall Woods-Dukes Creek Conservation Area**, purchased by the state under the Preservation 2000 program. This is strictly catch-and-release fishing with artificial lures containing barbless hooks.

Call 706-878-3087, thirty days in advance, to book a reservation to fish. Each fishing day is divided into two fishing periods, with a maximum of fifteen anglers allowed per period. Don't forget your valid Georgia fishing license, a trout stamp, and a state park pass.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER FUND

- \$10 Student \$30 Family Other \$ _____
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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 Fund

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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ALL IS SUSTAINED BY WATER.
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ACTION ALERT

FOR SALE: OUR LAKES, RESERVOIRS AND DAMS

A bill, already approved by the U.S. House Resources Committee, provides for the sale of 23 of our lakes, reservoirs, and dams in the South and the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA), which markets electricity from the federal dams to electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. Properties for sale include the following lakes and reservoirs on the Chattahoochee River: Lanier, West Point, Walter F. George, and Seminole.

The buyer of these lakes would not have to: 1] comply with environmental laws for at least 30 years, 2] continue to provide drinking water or electricity at existing rates, 3] ensure sufficient water levels for recreational activities, or 4] continue to provide free access to the lakes and reservoirs.

Another troubling aspect of this sale is that as a result of the pending Alabama/Florida/Georgia lawsuit over water and the resulting water resources study, the Atlanta Region does not have a permanent agreement with SEPA, nor therefore, with the new owner, for water. Should this sale occur, the region might have to negotiate with a private, for-profit company for our future water supply which could result in expensive and/or limited water use for years to come.

Congress is considering this sale as a way to reduce our federal deficit. Last year, however, SEPA generated \$136 million in revenues from electricity sales for the federal government! In addition to the loss of this yearly revenue, Congress plans to spend at least another \$6 million to handle the sale. **Lastly, but most importantly, we are facing the potential loss of the quality and quantity of our water supply and the use of our waters for boating, fishing and other recreational activities. It would seem these figures do not add up to any gain for the federal government and clearly don't for us!**

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write or call your representative and senators. Give them examples of how you and your family use and enjoy our lakes and reservoirs and urge them to defeat this legislation.

WRITE:

Rep. _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Sen. Paul Coverdell/Sam Nunn, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

CALL:

- U.S. House switchboard 202-225-3121
- Senator Coverdell 404-347-2202
- Senator Nunn 404-331-4811

CALL YOUR COUNTY VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE TO IDENTIFY YOUR REPRESENTATIVE.



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