

RIVER CHAT

Success Story in Forsyth County

SAVING THE CHATTAHOOCHEE TAILWATER

MIST RISES ABOVE THE ICY 50-degree water — water so clear that every pebble on the River bottom is visible.

With Bowman's Island as backdrop, anglers pursue rain-

bows and browns in the southernmost trout waters in the U.S. Less than a mile upstream, Buford Dam holds back the Chattahoochee's flow to provide Atlanta's drinking water and to

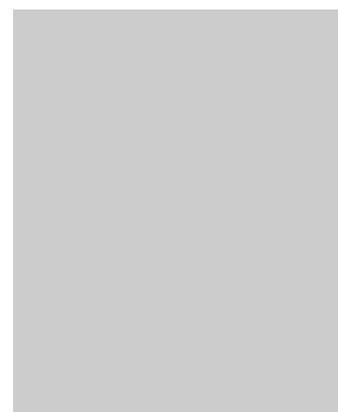
periodically release slugs of water for peaking power and other purposes.

The cold water from Lake Lanier's depths creates a "tailwater" (below dam) trout fishery that brings significant economic benefit to the region and pleasure to thousands. In 1976, the state constructed a trout hatchery on the banks of the River near Bowman's Island to produce fish using the cold, clean tailwater. Annually, 450,000 trout are raised here for stocking.

When the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area was created in 1978, the Bowman's Island area was given a high priority for protection through acquisition. Over the years, more than 850 acres of land along the River in Forsyth and Gwinnett Counties were purchased or donated to the National Park Service (NPS). However, dwindling public dollars for park land left several important tracts unprotected and vulnerable to development.

Threatened by Development

In late 1994, Riverkeeper learned of plans to construct a huge subdivision, the Chatta-



Cold, clean Chattahoochee waters near Bowman's Island please fish—and anglers!

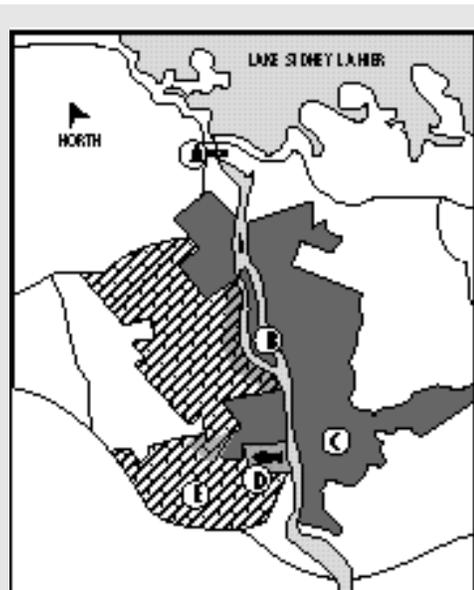
hoochee River Club, on more than 600 acres surrounding the state trout hatchery and federal park land near Bowman's Island in Forsyth County (see map).

During numerous meetings with the developer (Hedgewood Properties) and county and state officials and at re-zoning hearings, Riverkeeper spoke out in opposition to the proposal due to strong concerns over impacts to the River, the park and the hatchery from storm water runoff both during and

See DEVELOPER, page 6

**Chattahoochee Named
"Most Endangered
Urban River In U.S."**

See page 2.



BOWMAN'S ISLAND TROUT FISHERY

- A. Buford Dam
- B. Bowman's Island
- C. Existing National Park Service Area
- D. Buford Fish Hatchery
- E. Development area

THE RIVER MATTERS

Monthly Cleanups in the Riverkeeper Boat.
See pg. 6 for details.

Riverkeeper Benefits (Call 404-816-9888 for details.)
First Annual Z-93 Jerry Jam Concert
John Harvard's Brew House in Roswell—Grand Opening

Town Hall Meeting in Dahlonega
North Georgia College (7–9 PM).

Riverkeeper Brown Bag Lunch
"Where and How to Fish the Hooch."

Water Quality Workshops
Call Dee West at 770-442-9057 to schedule.

Every 4th Sat.
(Apr-Oct)

May 19
May 20
May 28

June 21

May–July



ALL IS BORN OF WATER:
ALL IS SUSTAINED BY WATER.

Reflections

This Spring marks the anniversary of an event which brings back vivid memories of a cold baptism in the 'Hooch and special help from friends.

Not yet in possession of our own boat, we had asked a generous Riverkeeper member to take us out in his craft to monitor water quality downstream of Atlanta's water intake in "the most polluted one-half mile of the Chattahoochee."

The only public ramp to launch the boat was located *above* the man-made waterfall at the intake, while our destination was *below* the falls.

We made it down, but not back up, those falls. When the shallow-draft boat capsized, we swam for the nearest shore, an island in the middle of the River, with our water sample held high above the turbulent, cold water.

Thanks to a watertight dry sack with a cell phone inside, we were able to call for help from a nearby friend with a boat—the **Georgia Power Company** at its McDonough-Atkisson Plant just downstream from us.

As the Georgia Power employees ferried us back across the Chattahoochee to the shore, I thought about all the many ways the Riverkeeper organization has been supported by a variety of diverse friends.

Our supporters have included private foundations, like the **Turner, Callaway, Vasser-Woolley**, and **Lyndhurst Foundations** and event hosts such as **Canoe Restaurant, Hard Rock Cafe, and 99X Radio Station.**

We've benefited from in-kind contributors such as **Donahue Studios, Honda, and Patagonia**, companies such as **Price Waterhouse, Cox Enterprises, and Scientific Games Inc.**, and government agencies like the **U.S. EPA, Urban Resources Partnership** and **Georgia's Adopt-a-Stream Program.**

Especially important are our individual **Riverkeeper members.** Whether your contribution is the \$15 membership or more, your personal support of our efforts means so much.

Thanks to all of our supporters for being there when we *really* needed you.

Sally Bethea

RIVERKEEPER

CHATTAHOOCHEE "MOST ENDANGERED RIVER"

On April 17th, the national river conservation organization, **American Rivers**, announced its 1996 list of the Most Endangered and Threatened Rivers in the country—specifically naming the **Chattahoochee River as the Most Endangered Urban River** in North America. Both the Chattahoochee and the Etowah were included in the top 10 Most Endangered Rivers. This represents increased concern over the status of the Chattahoochee, named one of the top 20 Most Threatened Rivers in 1994 and 1995.

The Chattahoochee's new ranking results from the continuing problems with the City of Atlanta's sewage systems, the tremendous development throughout metro Atlanta, the on-going "water war" disputes with neighboring states and the concern over the impact of millions of visitors to the area during the Summer Olympics.

The Etowah received this ranking since it has the highest level of imperiled aquatic organisms for any river of similar size in this country. Erosion from logging operations and construction sites is choking this river and a proposed interbasin sewage transfer to the Etowah basin from the Chattahoochee basin poses a significant threat as well.

Riverkeeper Forming Scientific Advisory Group

A firm grasp of scientific issues is essential for sound environmental decision-making. As the Riverkeeper organization was being formed in 1993, we sought the advice of experts in a range of scientific fields such as biology, hydrology, chemistry, limnology, fisheries and other areas. We are now formalizing our scientific arsenal by creating a Scientific Advisory Committee to help guide the Riverkeeper staff, Board and members toward solid positions on the complicated environmental issues facing the Chattahoochee watershed.

Dr. Gail Marshall, an environmental educator at the high school level for 22 years with 10 years at the college level, is on Riverkeeper's Board of Directors. Along with **Dr. Mac Callaham**, Director of the Center for Science and Technology at North Georgia College, Gail is helping build our Scientific Advisory Committee to include a range of experts committed to making

improvements in the management of the Chattahoochee watershed.

Gail has developed and taught water quality education courses for teachers and educated hundreds of high school students. She has received numerous awards for her work, including Georgia Science Teacher of the Year and she serves on the Board of Trustees for The Georgia Conservancy and the state Adopt-a-Stream Board. Gail says, "By helping today's students understand the importance of River systems like the Chattahoochee, we are building an informed and caring community."



Dr. Gail Marshall

TROUT, BEER AND MUSIC

On a warm weekend in February, Riverkeeper staff and volunteers helped run a kid's trout fishing pond at the Bass Madness Event sponsored by **Bass Pro-Sportmen's Warehouse** in Duluth. Thanks to all volunteers and to Bass Pro for helping raise funds for Riverkeeper's adopt-a-stream program.

To benefit Riverkeeper, on May 19, **Radio Station Z-93** will sponsor its First Annual Jerry Jam Concert at the Variety Playhouse in Little Five Points, and on May 20, **John Harvard's Brew House** in Roswell will hold a grand opening party. Call the Riverkeeper office for details.

THE RIVERKEEPER STAFF

Sally Bethea—Executive Director and Riverkeeper
David Moore—General Counsel
Alice Champagne—Adopt-a-Stream Coordinator
& Assistant To The Riverkeeper
Mary Johnson—Staff Attorney and Permit
Monitoring Project
Glynn Groszmann—Big Creek Monitoring Project
Susan Smith—Office Manager
Harlan Trammell—Boat Captain
Donahue Studios—*River Chat* design
Caub Communications—*River Chat* production
404-816-9888 FAX 816-3613

The Docket

RIVERKEEPER'S LEGAL ACTION PROGRAM

DEFENDANT	BACKGROUND	STATUS
CITY OF ATLANTA	Atlanta's sewer overflows continue to discharge pollutants including sewage into the Chattahoochee River; Atlanta's sewage treatment plants are discharging phosphorus at levels found to be harmful to the River and impounded lakes below Atlanta. (See <i>River Chat</i> , Fall 1995.)	Negotiations with the City have stalled due to the City's unwillingness to agree to an enforceable schedule for upgrades to the City's three plants, and its refusal to take responsibility for water quality violations. The River Coalition has filed summary judgment motions with the Federal District Court.
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION (IN RE: CORNELIA)	Nitrogen discharges from the City of Cornelia into Mud Creek continue to be very high. Levels of nitrogen discharged in the past five years have been shown to be toxic to fish and aquatic organisms.	EPD did not consider environmental impacts in its decision to give the City an additional year to remove toxins from its discharges. The City testified that upgrades would take only six months to construct after contractor selection, but that the City would not be able to meet the May 1996 deadline, four years after permit issuance.
CITY OF CORNELIA (FEDERAL CASE)	See above. Case filed in Federal District Court on January 24, 1996. Riverkeeper is seeking court ordered upgrades to the City's plant and stream restoration, and an appropriate civil penalty.	City's response to Riverkeeper's complaint admits many of the Clean Water Act violations. City has made no efforts to date to discuss possibility of settlement.
FIELDALE FARMS	Fieldale Farms owns a chicken processing/rendering plant which discharges into the City of Cornelia sewage treatment plant, accounting for up to 80% of the pollutant loading for that plant. Fieldale's permit states that its discharges cannot cause violations at the Cornelia plant.	Notice of intent to sue issued January 21, 1996. Riverkeeper plans to file civil complaint in the Northern District of Georgia prior to next docket update. Southern Environmental Law Center has agreed to assist as co-counsel for this matter.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Sierra Club and Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest for their recent victory which will require the state to comply with the Clean Water Act and consider Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) prior to issuing discharge permits.

SPECIAL THANKS to Riverkeeper Member Mary Lou Ernst for testifying in the City of Cornelia case.

C.W. Matthews Agrees To Cleanup

C.W. Matthews Contracting Co. and Riverkeeper recently reached agreement on a major cleanup effort at Matthews' asphalt plant located on the Chattahoochee River in Cobb County.

Matthews will spend well in excess of \$100,000 on site improvements which include moving a 75,000 ton stockpile of used asphalt away from the River and the construction of a large detention basin to control stormwater runoff. Matthews also has given \$20,000 for a riverbank landscaping project and for water quality tests to be conducted in this portion of the River, and paid our attorneys' fees relating to this matter.

Also, as part of the agreement, Matthews provided man power and machinery to Riverkeeper for our March 23rd "Help the Hooch" Day (See article on pg. 4). "We hope that our efforts to cleanup our site will encourage others to improve this industrial section of the Chattahoochee," said **Bob Matthews**, President and CEO of C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.



Riverkeeper staff attorney Mary Johnson and C.W. Matthews' crew and machinery take a break from a day of work that removed 20 tons of garbage and debris from the banks of the River.

STREAM LINES

Georgia General Assembly Wrap-up

The environment came out on top in this year's Georgia General Assembly. Some good legislation was passed; some bad legislation thwarted. Winners include a bill that prevents lawsuits against citizens who seek to enforce environmental laws (i.e. SLAPP suits).

SECRECY FOR POLLUTERS BILL KILLED

Sometimes you win by just not losing anything. And during this year's heavily corporate-financed onslaught on our environmental laws, not losing took a great deal of effort.

The Secrecy for Polluters bill, **S.B. 244**, was killed by House Speaker Murphy after an outpouring of public opposition, despite stringent lobbying efforts by industries, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and our own Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Lobbyists did not stop even after the Attorney General came out against the bill and the Environmental Protection Agency testified that S.B. 244 could weaken Georgia's environmental laws below minimal federal requirements. Thanks to all of you who contacted your

legislators and helped win on this important issue.

EPD FORCED TO CLEAN UP ITS ACT

Also in the "did not lose" category was **H.B. 1788**, a bill EPD drafted after the Superior Court agreed with environmentalist Terry Hughey that Georgia had failed to legally promulgate state water regulations.

EPD attempted to slip in language that would legalize its practice of privately issuing administrative orders waiving permit effluent limitations on the very same day water permits are issued. Hughey, Riverkeeper, and other environmental groups demanded removal of the offending language, and inclusion of a requirement that EPD establish a turbidity (dirt) standard for state waters. A proposal to allow citizens to enforce state environmental laws did not make it into the final H.B. 1788, but looks promising for next year's General Assembly.

ATLANTA POLLUTION TACKLED

Sen. Steve Langford created and shepherded **S.B. 500**, a bill which places oner-

ous requirements on the City of Atlanta for failure to comply with clean water laws in its discharges to the Chattahoochee.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Lt. Gov. Pierre Howard, Sen. Steve Langford, Rep. Dubose Porter, Rep. Denny Dobbs, Sen. Mary Margaret Oliver, Rep. Charlie Watts, Wes Woolf, Terry Hughey, Steve O'Day, Rutherford Seydel, Mark Woodall, Neill Herring, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Is The Environment "Non-essential"?

As a result of the closing of the federal government due to stalled budget negotiations, the U.S. EPA was unable to perform *forty percent* of its planned health and safety inspections during the end of 1995. This is one reason why Riverkeeper's River Patrol and Adopt-A Stream programs are so necessary and your involvement in them so important! (See Adopt-A Stream article on pg.7)

A 20 TON EFFORT TOWARDS A CLEANER RIVER

How do you clean up *twenty tons* of trash from a Chattahoochee riverbank?

Find lots of volunteers and a helpful company with heavy equipment! Thanks to **C.W. Matthews Contracting Co.** for providing a front end loader, 2 flatbed trucks and employees to assist in the trash pick-up. Additional thanks to the 75 people who participated in the hugely successful cleanup on a sunny Saturday in late March. A diverse range of groups were represented, including the **Georgia Canoeing Association, West Fulton Middle School, Ameri-Corps volunteers, Generation Green, Atlanta Center for Excellence (ACE), EPA employees, Atlanta Whitewater Club** and **Riverkeeper** members. The **Cobb County D.O.T. and Cobb Clean Commission** participated prior to the event by removing hundreds of large tires from the site for recycling.

American Rivers' representative Leigh Askew presented Riverkeeper with a \$1,200 check to help cover the cost of the cleanup. **EPA Administrator Carol Browner** also participated in the cleanup and spoke to the group prior to the event, emphasizing the importance of the Chattahoochee River to the health of the region.

Volunteers were supplied with gloves and bags by **Home Depot** and drinks by **Coca-Cola**. A big thank you to Riverkeeper volunteer **Janelle Poldy** for helping to organize this event.



Standing in front of Matthews' asphalt stockpile, Riverkeeper Sally Bethea addresses volunteers.



EPA Administrator Carol Browner and Ameri-Corps volunteers pause during a hard day's work.

PERMIT MONITORING KEEPS TRACK OF DISCHARGERS

FOR RIVERKEEPER TO HELP IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE River system, we must know about the sources of pollution in the River. Generally these sources are categorized as either “point source” pollution (discharge of chemicals, sewage, garbage, and other wastes into a river or stream through some sort of pipe, culvert, or ditch) or “nonpoint source” pollution (pollution from a non-discrete source, such as runoff from construction activities, agriculture, and forestry).

Riverkeeper’s **Permit Monitoring Program** tracks the compliance records of dischargers of “point source” pollution in the upper Chattahoochee basin—Helen to West Point Dam. (Our non-point source control efforts are promoted through Riverkeeper’s **Adopt-a-Stream Network** and **Soil Erosion Campaign** working with individual developers and local governments.)

How Is Point Source Pollution Controlled?

The federal Clean Water Act generally prohibits the discharge of any pollutant into a waterway by any person. However, the law does allow exceptions to this rule for certain “point source” discharges provided the discharge is in compliance with a **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) permit**.

In Georgia, the state Environmental Protection Division (“EPD”) issues NPDES permits to industries, municipalities, etc. to discharge certain pollutants (such as suspended solids, fecal coliform bacteria, and dissolved oxygen) into waterways usually with specific limitations on how much can be discharged so that the discharge will not be harmful to the receiving waters.

In order to know whether the discharger is staying within its permit limitations, the permit usually requires the discharger to routinely conduct an analysis of its discharge and send these results to the state. These monitoring reports, usually submitted on a monthly basis, are public records.

Riverkeeper’s Permit Monitoring Project

Eighteen months ago, Chris Thompson, a former key Riverkeeper staff member, began an ambitious project to identify all of the NPDES permit holders in the upper Chattahoochee River basin and to develop a monitoring system to determine how well these dischargers are complying with their permits. With funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Riverkeeper has developed a database which contains relevant information on each of the **149 NPDES permit holders** in the upper Chattahoochee River basin. Staff attorney Mary Johnson and interns update this database by regularly reviewing the files at the EPD offices. We plan to add the longitude and latitude for each facility this year so that we can determine potential sources of pollution in a particular part of the watershed.

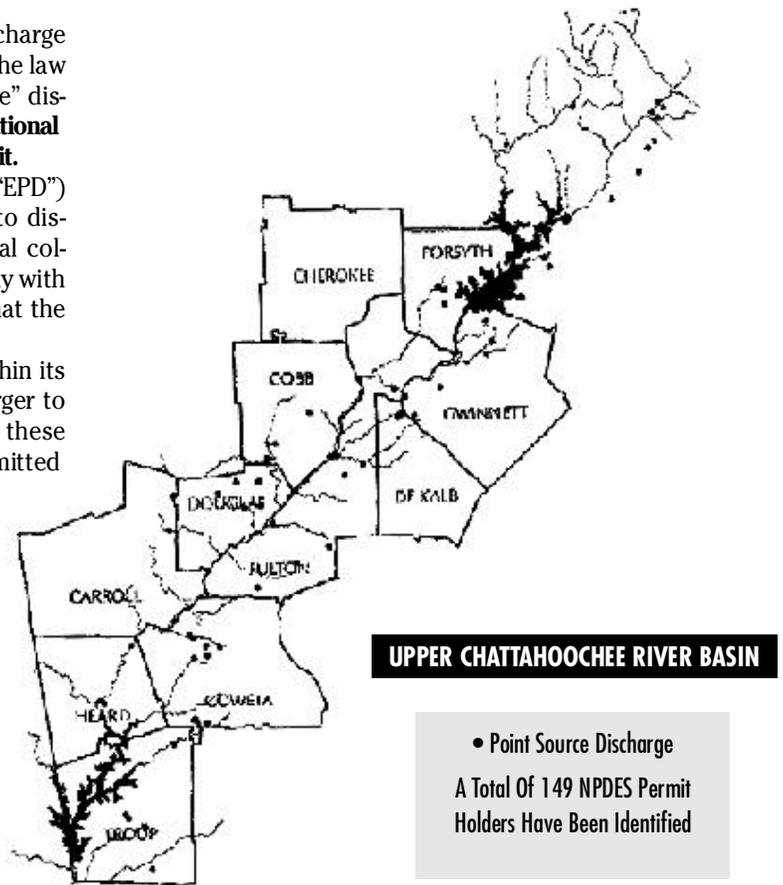
This database allows Riverkeeper to keep track of repeat permit violators, and helps us to focus our enforcement efforts. Riverkeeper has already begun legal actions against several of the worst cases of permit violators. (See *The Docket* on page 3.)

We also use our database to check the compliance record of dischargers which are seeking reissuance or modification of their permits. (NPDES permits typically expire every five years.) Based

upon their compliance record and/or the changes to the permit being considered, Riverkeeper submits comments to the state for possible incorporation into the new permit.

How many Dischargers can the Chattahoochee handle ?

A recent federal ruling in *Sierra Club v. EPA*, held that EPD had failed to establish total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for pollutants on streams which do not meet Georgia’s water quality standards. Federal law requires each state to address this issue and the court’s ruling found that Georgia was far behind the statutory schedule for setting TMDLs for its rivers. This decision highlights the need to determine the total impact of point and non-point source pollution on the River. Riverkeeper plans to be a part of the process for determining the TMDLs for the Chattahoochee River and anticipates our database will be a useful tool in this effort.



PERMIT HOLDERS IN THE UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE BASIN

INDUSTRIAL	56
(e.g., power, chemical and textile companies)	
MUNICIPAL	52
(e.g., sewer treatment plants)	
PRIVATE/INSTITUTIONAL	41
(e.g., mobile home parks, schools)	
TOTAL:	149

Developer Agrees To Chattahoochee Protection

Continued from page 1.

after construction.

Concerns expressed by Riverkeeper, the state Wildlife Resources Division and Trout Unlimited resulted in zoning conditions requiring wider vegetated buffers along the River and tributaries, as well as additional erosion control measures for the entire development.

The Trust for Public Land, a national land conservation organization, began working with Riverkeeper and others in the spring of 1995 to secure additional protection for the River from developer Hedgewood Properties.

Protective Mitigation Measures Secured

After extensive negotiations led by Trust for Public Land and assisted by Riverkeeper, legal agreements were signed by Hedgewood and the NPS in April, 1996 to offset development impacts and produce environmental benefits. These mitigation measures include:

- 3,500 feet of River frontage totalling 27.4 acres donated to the NPS in exchange for 24.5 acres of park land located away from the River. (The donated tract along the River will be restricted to foot paths connecting the two existing park units. See map, page 1.);
- a comprehensive storm water detention system throughout the development minimizing erosion and thermal pollution down-

stream to protect trout habitat. (Forsyth does not have storm water control regulations, therefore, the detention system would not have otherwise been required.);

- national park improvements including construction of a bridge across Haw Creek and trails, access easements, limited parking and a maintenance endowment fund from subdivision homeowners.
- deed restrictions on subdivision lots to ensure enforcement of the 50' setback requirement along tributaries to the Chattahoochee;

Hedgewood Properties is to be commended for working diligently with all the concerned parties to secure a win-win result, however, our work is not done. As we have already seen with early erosion problems at the site, continued vigilance will be necessary to ensure that what happens on the ground mirrors the intentions of the carefully drawn agreements. Riverkeeper and others will monitor the site regularly to assess erosion and storm water control measures.

Our success in Forsyth County well illustrates the point that despite limited federal and state dollars to protect land through acquisition, concerned groups can use leverage created through the zoning process and other vehicles to better protect natural resources.

Alan Toney—An Original Riverkeeper

ALAN TONEY IS ANOTHER CHILD OF THE RIVER. AN ATLANTA NATIVE WHO turns 50 this year, the River has left an indelible mark on him. Likewise, through his activism, he's left his mark on the River. As a child he chased turtles and frogs in the River's wetlands. As a teenager in the mid-1960s, he pursued fun and amorous encounters parked atop what was then a rarely used I-75 bridge spanning the River. And, as an adult, he was on hand in 1978 at the White House when President Jimmy Carter signed the bill creating the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area.

He fought his first battles for the River in the late 1970s on behalf of the environmental group, Friends of the River (now defunct), as land owners and developers tried to position themselves for profit before the National Park Service's impending buy-out of River property. Facing off against foes in zoning meetings, the self-proclaimed river rat fought for the park that U.S. Rep. Larry McDonald was calling a "refuge for hooligans, drug users and nudists".

Twenty years later, he's still protecting the River. A credit manager by day, in his spare time he works as an elected state Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor for Fulton County. He and four other supervisors for the county are charged with overseeing building and development permits to insure that that the county is enforcing erosion control laws. Toney says the job can be frustrating.

"In theory, authority flows from the Soil and Water Conservation supervisors, but in reality the counties do what they want,"

he said. "It seems developers own county commissioners. Most developers are conscientious. Ninety percent can do the right thing but ten percent can ruin it for everybody, and I refuse to accept that."

Though battles on behalf of the River continue, Toney, and other original "riverkeepers" of the 1960s and 70s, can relish previous victories. Today when he crosses the River's now busy I-75 bridge he can look upstream and still see a vast unbroken forest preserved as the federal park.

"By all rights that could be subdivisions and condominiums today, and that makes me feel good," he said.

Contributed by Joe Cook

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

See new sections of the River you've never explored and feel the satisfaction of cleaning up riverbanks and islands!

Harlan Trammell, Riverkeeper Boat Captain, has initiated a monthly river cleanup (April–October) to retrieve Chattahoochee River trash by boat. The fourth Saturday afternoon of every month, Harlan needs several volunteers to assist him. Other boats are welcome to join in. Initial cleanup targets will be the confluence of Rottenwood Creek with the River, the Atlanta water intake, and the Island Ford area. Call Harlan at 404-816-9888 to volunteer.



Harlan Trammell

Adopt-A-Stream Network News

Congratulations to the newest recipients of the Chattahoochee Adopt-a-Stream Network grants from the Captain Planet Foundation. **Alexander High School** students are conducting a long term monitoring study of the Dog River, a tributary to the Chattahoochee River in Douglas County. The **Sautee-Nacoochee Adopt-a-Stream** group will involve children and adults in the Sautee-Nacoochee community as they learn and explore ways to improve water quality on Sautee Creek in White County. To date, four of ten grants have been awarded.

The **Gwinnett Sierra Club Adopt-a-Stream** group is organizing a team of volunteers to monitor the health of Suwanee Creek in Gwinnett County. In the metro Atlanta area, students at **West Fulton Middle School** are gearing up for spring and will conduct a watershed walk and trash pick-up along Proctor Creek during the months of April and May.

Riverkeeper's Network assists existing adopt-a-stream groups and helps new groups get organized. Call Alice Champagne, Network Coordinator, at the Riverkeeper office (404-816-9888) for further information.

FIND RIVERKEEPER ON THE "NET"

Thanks to the work of volunteer **Russ Koester**, a.k.a. Webmaster@Buckhead.org, Riverkeeper has an internet home page! Our page contains information every "keeper" should have:

- WHO TO CALL when you find pollution
- WHEN AND WHERE adopt-a-stream monitoring, river cleanups and fundraising events are taking place
- ACTION ALERTS about pending federal and state legislation
- ADVOCACY AND LITIGATION UPDATES
- HOW to become a MEMBER of Riverkeeper.

Keep up with the most current events on the river through your electronic connection to Riverkeeper! Look for us at <http://www.buckhead.org/riverkeeper>

PAINTING YOUR HOUSE THIS SUMMER?

To protect our rivers and streams, it is important to follow some simple guidelines when using paint.

- Choose water-based paint (latex) whenever possible
- Buy only what you need
- Store paint properly
- Dispose of paint responsibly:

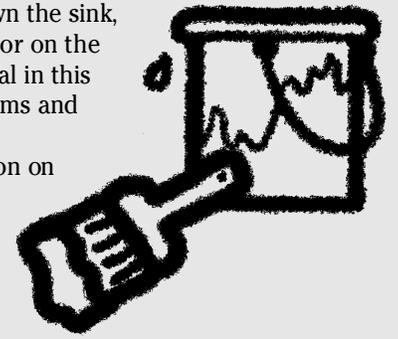
Best way: Use it up by applying another coat or donating the extra paint to your local schools' drama club.

Solidify/Double Wrap: Solidify with absorbent material such as kitty litter, sawdust, charcoal or sand. Allow material to dry, then double wrap in plastic and discard it with household refuse.

Never pour paint down the sink, in the sewer, in a stream or on the ground. Improper disposal in this manner can pollute streams and groundwater.

For further information on hazardous household products, contact Stephanie Siniard at the Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (404-651-5120).

Source: "Hazardous Household Products: Use and Disposal", Cooperative Extension Service. The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.



Membership up for renewal? Please send it in today!

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Lifetime |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Contributor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please make a contribution of \$ _____ or reserve membership for the person(s) listed below.
(A card will be sent notifying the recipient(s) of your gift.) | | |

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____ (Fax)

- 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.



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

- Please send _____ large
_____ x-large

Riverkeeper t-shirts
at \$18.50 each, (includes shipping)

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
P.O. Box 7338
Atlanta, GA 30357-0338

ACTION ALERT

LOCKHEED FINALLY BEGINS CLEANUP OF HAZARDOUS SPILL *13 Years Of Neglect And Slow Cleanup Threatens Taxpayers!*

On March 22, 1983, a spill of over 1000 gallons of a potent, cancer-causing hazardous substance, trichlorethane (TCE), occurred at the Lockheed Martin Aeronautical Systems facility in Cobb County. This spill contaminated groundwater, forcing the closing of two wells on adjacent property, according to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). The U.S. EPA has established a very low threshold for TCE in water used for drinking, *5 parts per billion*, and has found TCE to be toxic and to cause cancer in laboratory animals.

Riverkeeper General Counsel David Moore attended a public meeting last November which revealed that no efforts had been made to contain the groundwater contamination since 1983. According to EPD data, TCE has been found in Nickajack and Rottenwood Creeks, which border the Lockheed property. Both are tributaries to the Chattahoochee River, one is upstream from the City of Atlanta drinking water intake.

In January, EPD fined Lockheed \$99,000 for over a dozen violations of the hazardous waste laws including failure to properly address the decade-old spill and for illegally using a retention pond to treat the hazardous waste. EPD's order also cites Lockheed for sending some 39 tons of contaminated soil to a landfill not designed to contain hazardous waste. Riverkeeper's Legal Action Program is considering options for enforcement.

Riverkeeper applauds the EPD for *finally* taking action against Lockheed. However, in the thirteen years since the spill took place, data has shown that TCE has moved beyond the facility's boundary, has entered the Chattahoochee River, and over time has degraded into an even more toxic substance, vinyl chloride. The final costs of cleaning up this hazardous mess will increase, and the costs are borne not only by Lockheed but by federal taxpayers as the U.S. Air Force owns the property (Lockheed is a federal government contractor).

CALL & WRITE

If you, too, are concerned about the slow pace of cleanup of the TCE spill at Lockheed, contact U.S. Air Force's

Andrea Attaway-Young at 1-800-982-7248, Ext. 453.

ASC/PA Bldg. 8

1801 10th St. Suite 2

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433-2626

Lockheed

Doug Oliver

***Public Information Officer
Lockheed Aeronautical Systems
Marietta, GA 30060-0264
(404) 494-6208***

FAX YOUR COMMENTS TO: EPD Director Harold Reheis (404) 651-5778



YOUR RIVER YOUR FUTURE

P.O. Box 7336 Atlanta, Georgia 30357-0336
404 616-9666

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***Please recycle by
passing River Chat
along to a friend!***