

Stakeholders Move To End Water War

Decades of conflict over Georgia's most used waterway may be coming to an end. For 21 years, CRK has worked collaboratively throughout the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) basin to resolve the tri-state water conflict. Reaching a water sharing agreement that is protective of human and ecological needs for users in all three states is critical because continued access to Lake Lanier remains the most sustainable option for meeting metro Atlanta's long-term water supply needs.

The Crux of Conflict: Lake Lanier

When Buford Dam was built, forming Lake Lanier in the 1950s, the Army Corps of Engineers managed the reservoir for flood control, navigation and hydropower. As Atlanta's demand for water grew, the Corps also used the reservoir for water supply. In the 1970s, downstream users in all three states began alleging that North Georgia's water use was unauthorized and over consumptive, with inequitable consequences for downstream needs. When severe drought hit the Southeast between 2006 and 2009, these tensions came to a head.

Court Interference Sparks Action by Stakeholders

All three states have taken the Corps to court to try to resolve the tri-state water conflict. In response to the court's repeated involvement, stakeholders from thirteen user interest groups in all three states met to discuss an alternative to the litigation, officially forming ACF Stakeholders in 2009.

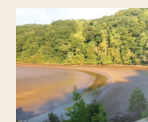
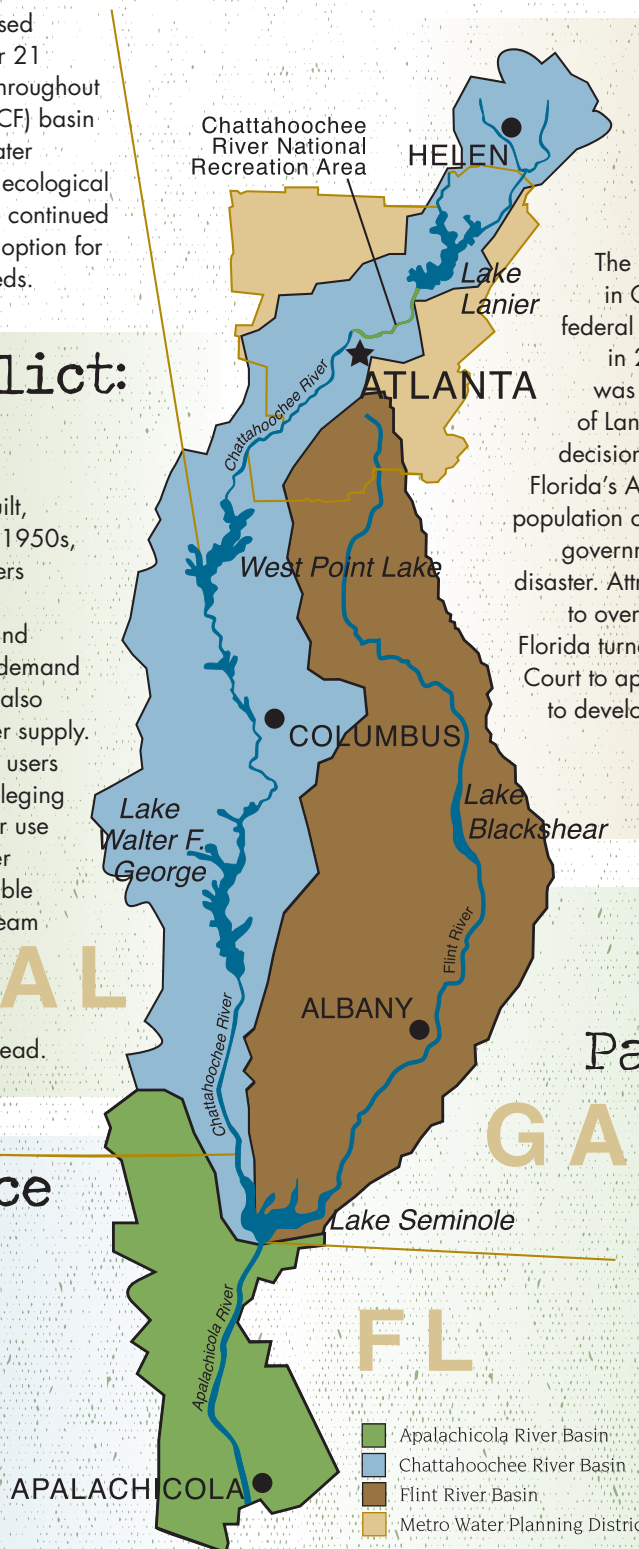
Legal Quagmire Poses New Challenges

The legal landscape shifted in Georgia's favor when a federal Court of Appeals ruled in 2011 that water supply was an authorized purpose of Lanier. Then, in 2013, this decision was challenged when Florida's Apalachicola Bay oyster population crashed and the federal government declared a fishery disaster. Attributing the devastation to overconsumption upstream, Florida turned to the U.S. Supreme Court to appoint a Special Master to develop a water-sharing plan between the states.

56 Stakeholders Pen a Different Path: Present Day

In May of 2015, the ACF Stakeholders released the Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP), which includes several recommendations for improving basin-wide management to benefit users in all three states. The SWMP represents a positive step toward resolving the tri-state water conflict. Brad Currey (see page 4) says this plan may be the region's best hope for ending litigation.

But, how will the SMWP affect our river?
Continue the story on page 7.



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Our mission is to advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries and watershed.

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Reflections

During my early months as Riverkeeper, I found myself thinking about how I got here. Since I was a boy, I have felt a profound connection to water. On Saturday mornings, when other kids were eating Fruity Pebbles and watching cartoons, I was on the Chattahoochee catching trout with my dad. And when I wasn't boating and fishing, I was planning my next trip. I was a river junkie — still am.



As the years passed, I continued to explore the creeks, rivers and lakes around the Southeast; catching a fish wherever I could. But for some reason, none of these waterways could compete with the Chattahoochee. There is just something about that cold, green water that holds a special place in my heart.

As I continued to grow, I became more curious about the health of the river — witnessing the destructive impacts of heavy rain time and time again. This curiosity and concern guided me to the University of Georgia's Environmental Health Science Program.

Passion Manifests in Career Path

In 2003, with my newly completed degree in hand, I probed the job market for a way to make a difference for our waterways. I initially landed in Georgia's state government, working for two environmental agencies on several state-wide water quality programs. While this work was important and rewarding, it ultimately wasn't for me.

After nearly five years of government work, I learned that Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's longtime Technical Programs Director was leaving. Having long admired CRK's work, I jumped at the chance to join the staff. I remember my initial job interview with Sally Bethea — she was so passionate about this beautiful river and the Riverkeeper's role in protecting it. I was sold right then and there; I knew that CRK was the place for me.



Jason fishing on Lake Lanier in the late 80s.

Now, eight years later, we continue to build on Sally's legacy of working with our wonderful partners, board, volunteers and members on the many issues facing the river today. As I encounter new threats to the Chattahoochee (some mentioned in this newsletter), my childhood image of the cool green water reminds me why we must never stop, never tire, in our fight to protect this precious waterway.

JASON ULSETH
Riverkeeper

Watershed Moment

My favorite spot on the Hooch is near Mile Marker 321.5... a place I refer to as "Three Rivers" because there are two islands that divide the river into three sections. Nearly every weekend, I grab my tandem kayak and hit the water (with my dog Tootsie in the front seat) to escape life's chaos. While picking up discarded beer cans along the riverbed, I'm always on the lookout for an otter — it makes my day when I see one. The Chattahoochee is my release, where I can go to relax and take it all in.

— Scott Goggans



Scott and Tootsie at the "three rivers".

What's your "Watershed Moment"? Email your hi-res color image of the river, and about 100 words about its inspiration, to clismore@chattahoochee.org.

On Patrol

For further details on CRK's investigations and enforcement actions, go to www.chattahoochee.org/on-patrol.

CRK PROGRAM TARGETS INDUSTRIAL METRO CREEK

Flowing through highly industrial northwest Atlanta, **Woodall Creek** is arguably one of the most polluted streams in Georgia. Before reaching Peachtree Creek, this tributary is polluted with heavy metals such as zinc, copper and iron, high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, and an industrial cleaning agent called Tetrachloroethylene (PCE). By no coincidence, the watershed is home to a cluster of interrelated industries — chemical manufacturers, metal fabricators, metal finishers, and tire recyclers — which are responsible for much of this pollution via stormwater runoff.

While these industries are required to prevent contaminated stormwater runoff from leaving their sites, oversight is a challenge for Georgia's underfunded and understaffed Environmental Protection Division, which is charged with keeping tabs. In response to this gap in enforcement, CRK's **Protecting Streams and Communities from Industrial Pollution** program (PSCIP) plays a vital role in oversight and facilitating industrial compliance with clean water laws.

After conducting a full investigation of all facilities in the Woodall Creek watershed, CRK discovered over a dozen businesses with multiple violations. One such facility is Zep, Inc., a chemical manufacturer which has been discharging high levels of zinc into the creek for years with no repercussions. Further upstream, we discovered that Liberty Tire, a large-scale tire recycler, has never reported water samples flowing from their site and into the creek as required by state law. Many others have also failed to implement the required pollution prevention plans.

CRK is working to curb these industrial pollution sources and is proactively approaching each company to bring them into compliance with clean water laws.



CRK Watershed Protection Specialist Mike Meyer tests water quality while investigating a PSCIP site.

New Trail Improves Headwaters River Access

The **Friends of Gainesville Parks, Greenways Board**, and CRK are working to implement a canoe/kayak paddle trail that will connect four Gainesville city parks on Lake Lanier. This trail is an extension of the Upper Chattahoochee River Water Trail, which currently starts at the river's confluence with Sautee Creek in White County and ends at Clarks Bridge Park in Gainesville.

Adding approximately 14 miles to the existing 36.2 mile water trail, this new section will allow users to launch from local parks and go north to Don Carter State Park or south to River Forks Park (Hall County) for tent camping at beautiful sites overlooking Lake Lanier. Gainesville Parks and Recreation is currently working on signage and maps for each of the paddle launch sites.

Atlanta Enacts Energy/Water Audit Ordinance

On April 20, **Atlanta's City Council** approved a commercial energy and water audit ordinance, requiring select commercial building owners to track the building's energy and water use. Atlanta is among the first cities in the nation to adopt such an ordinance; the regulation is expected to add to reductions already generated through the voluntary Better Buildings Challenge. CRK will work with the City and other partners to help develop water audit criteria for implementation.

CRK Partners With American Rivers On Stormwater Rules

The **Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)** is updating its Manual for Stormwater Management in Georgia (Blue Book) and CRK is working with American Rivers to assist ARC in this process. The Blue Book provides guidance to local governments on establishing stormwater regulations for developers. The current Blue Book relies on outdated technology and ineffective detention ponds, leaving downstream communities at risk after heavy rains.

To fix these problems, we are urging ARC and other stakeholders to move toward green infrastructure as the preferred method of stormwater management in the new Blue Book. Green infrastructure allows rainwater to soak into the ground, resolving many of the pollution, flooding, and water supply issues associated with land development.

The Blueway Trail Takes Shape

The Chattahoochee Valley Blueway will soon be a reality. Encompassing a 52-mile stretch of river between West Point Lake and Columbus, this exciting project will bring much needed attention and economic benefit to a part of the Chattahoochee River once dominated by the textile industry. Paddlers, fishing enthusiasts, and wildlife watchers will all delight in the opportunities provided by the new Blueway — which already has a 2.4 mile whitewater course in downtown Columbus, plenty of flat-water paddling, and will soon include improved launch points, portages, and campsites. Led by The Trust for Public Land, this public-private partnership aims to help the surrounding communities rediscover the river as a place for recreation, ecotourism and a resource worth preserving for future generations to come.

River Stewardship

BRAD CURREY'S LESSER KNOWN HISTORY

Most people know Brad Currey as a highly successful banker, Chairman, and CEO — a self-made man, instrumental in establishing Rock-Tenn as a leading recycled paper packaging company. Some may even recall that Brad was an architect of the slogan: “Atlanta: the world’s next great international city.” As a significant business leader, he helped Atlanta become the internationally recognized center of commerce that it is today.



he’s just been lucky in life, but he happens to be one of the hardest workers around. While attending Princeton on a scholarship, he worked long hours as a bus-boy to make ends meet. After serving in the military and marrying the girl next door, he rose to the rank of Executive Vice President at Trust Company of Georgia. As a Rock-Tenn executive, he made it his business to shake the hand of every employee in every plant across the country.

With so many triumphs to choose from, he still names the ACF Stakeholders’ (see cover story) achievements as his greatest source of pride.



Brad Currey grew up playing in streams like this one near Lookout Mountain (taken in the early 1930s).

What you may not know is that Brad harbors a lifelong love of the outdoors, fondly remembering a childhood spent hiking on Chattanooga’s Lookout Mountain and splashing in the ponds and creeks along the Tennessee River. Young at heart and spry at the age of 85, Brad enjoys sharing these stories and stomping grounds with his children and grandchildren (next time you see Brad, ask him how to tell the difference between a shagbark and pig bark hickory).

Atlanta’s Hardest Worker

This Atlanta icon might shrug off his successes by telling you that

“Water is by far the most important economic and ecological resource we have,” says Brad. “If 56 stakeholders can find something they can live with, then we have a basis for resolving the water war. I think the three governors and the Special Master will see the sense in that.”

NANTAHALA OUTDOOR CENTER UNVEILS CHATTAHOOCHEE OUTPOSTS

On May 30th, the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC) made history as they celebrated the grand opening of two new riverside adventure centers on the Chattahoochee River in Atlanta, entertaining attendees with family friendly activities and an opportunity to paddle with Gold Medal Olympian Joe Jacobi.

Furthering NOC’s mission of sharing the physical, emotional, and social benefits of human-powered outdoor recreation with the public, these centers offer river enthusiasts low-impact, but high-quality recreational experiences on the Chattahoochee.

A Historical Concessionaire Award

When the **National Park Service** awarded NOC a ten-year contract last spring, they became the only National Park Service Authorized Concessionaire inside the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA). Now, the CRNRA’s three million annual visitors can enjoy a full range of outdoor experiences, including river tubing trips, paddling instruction (coming soon), paddle sports and specialty retail, guided fishing tours, food and beverage operations, shuttle services, special

events and rentals of kayaks, canoes, rafts, and standup paddleboards.

“NOC is thrilled to be the National Park Service’s partner in Atlanta. We have an exciting vision for the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area—

one that will make this resource even more engaging and useful to the public,” says NOC CEO Sutton Bacon. “We hope NOC’s presence in Atlanta promotes the outdoor lifestyle and raises awareness about the value of public lands for recreation and economic development”

CRK is thrilled to welcome NOC and looks forward to the years of partnership that lie ahead.



Paddlers enjoy a day on the river thanks to NOC.



THREE GENERATIONS CARE FOR LOCAL TREASURE

Every Thursday, stomping boots and warm greetings are heard throughout CRK's offices. It's Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) day — when extraordinary volunteers take time out of their busy schedules to bring water samples from their neighborhood creeks to our laboratory.

One NWW volunteer, **Ruby Mitchell**, says her love for her community prompts her, her daughter Joy and granddaughter T'niya to sample Proctor Creek at James Jackson Parkway and a Proctor tributary in Lillian Cooper Shepard Park.

Community Role Model

"This work is about community — that's why I do it," says Ruby. "If it's dirty upstream then it's dirty downstream. We are the ones downstream and we certainly don't want to be affected in a negative way. We want to have safe drinking and playing water just like anyone else — that's what keeps me connected." While Ruby only started volunteering for NWW in 2014, her love for water and science goes way back.

"I have a scientific nature," says Ruby, "and as



Ruby Mitchell and her daughter and granddaughter take weekly water samples on Proctor Creek.

a member of NPUG (Neighborhood Planning Unit G), I noticed the raised interest in Proctor Creek." Ruby calls the Proctor community "underserved," and as the rest of the metro area has also begun to recognize this, she has noticed increased

interest and investment in the area, which she attributes to the creek, noting that it "affects the livelihood of the neighborhood."

Teachable Moments

"People see me taking water samples and they're curious," notes Ruby. She always enjoys taking the time to sit with them and explain the water testing process and how it fits within the larger scope of CRK's work.

"Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is a great steward of this data, and I'm excited to be a part of your success," says Ruby.

Thanks to local citizens and volunteers like Ruby there is a growing feeling of energy in addressing the challenges Proctor Creek faces. Visit chattahoochee.org/our-work/ for more information about our Neighborhood Water Watch program.

COME FLOAT WITH CRK AND SWEETWATER ON AUGUST 29

Join Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, SweetWater Brewery and our local area outfitters on August 29 for the first ever Big Float, where we expect hundreds to get on the water and celebrate clean water with an after-party at the brewery. For eight years, SweetWater has been teaming up with their distributors and retailers to Save the Hooch, raising funds and awareness for CRK's important work of protecting clean water. Over the years, the Save the Hooch campaign has raised over \$420,000. Today, the campaign has grown to support 18 other Waterkeeper Alliance organizations around the southeast through the Save our Waters campaign.



"As a brewery, clean water is important to us because it's a main ingredient in making tasty beer. But in a broader sense, clean water is vital to a healthy community as a source for drinking and fishing," said SweetWater Founder Freddy Bensh. "Keeping our water clean is a cause that affects our entire community, so dedicating this campaign and new events like The Big Float to give back to this effort was a no-brainer."

Big Float and After-Party

Five local outfitters have joined with CRK and SweetWater to offer a variety of on-the-water adventures from the upper Hooch to below Atlanta, including **High Country Outfitters**, **Nantahala Outdoor Center**, **REI**, **Shoot the Hooch** and **Wildwood Outfitters**.

Later that day, SweetWater will be hosting an after-party for all Big Float participants. The party will include free beer, music, and a raffle with exciting items including a SweetWater branded canoe.

Visit www.Chattahoochee.org/bigfloat for details about the different trips offered and how you can join the after-party. A portion of all proceeds will support the Save the Hooch campaign and help CRK keep enough clean water in the river for now and future generations.



L to R: Ormsby's owner Michael Goot and SweetWater's Steve Farace at this year's Back to the Chattahoochee event.

River Matters

For information on these and other river-related events, visit www.chattahoochee.org/calendar.

August 29

The Big Float

August 29

Tour of Lake Lanier

September 19

Headwaters of the Chattahoochee Hike

September 26

Middle Chattahoochee River Outing

September 29

21st Annual Patron Dinner

October 16-18

McIntosh Camp and Paddle Trip

November Date TBD

CRK Member Celebration

AVEDA RAISES \$58,000 FOR CLEAN WATER



A special thanks to AVEDA for another successful Earth Month Campaign. For the fourth consecutive year, this environmental leader in the beauty industry chose CRK as its earth month partner for the state of Georgia. This year, the company surpassed all expectations, raising over \$58,000 for our mission.

Because of their long time commitment to sharing CRK's message, and for raising over \$225,000 for the organization over the past six years, we are thrilled to honor them with our River Advocate Award at this year's Patron Dinner. Visit www.chattahoochee.org/crk-events-calendar/patron-dinner/ for more information on this annual event.

STATE PROPOSES REDUCED FLOWS IN THE RIVER

On a summer afternoon in late June, nearly 60 people packed a windowless room in a complex near the Atlanta airport for a public hearing held by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

At issue: whether a long-standing legal requirement that establishes a minimum flow level in the Chattahoochee River at Peachtree Creek in Atlanta should be removed from state water rules. Since the 1970s, a flow of 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) — about a foot and a half of water at this location — has guided the Corps of Engineers in its releases of water from Buford Dam upstream of Atlanta.

Sixteen speakers rose to express their views on EPD's proposal — 15 against or very concerned about the change and one, a former EPD Deputy Director, in favor of it.

Dilution is Part of the Solution

The Chattahoochee River is the most heavily-used waterway in Georgia. It supplies four million people with drinking water, dilutes millions of gallons of treated sewage every day, supports power plants and hydropower facilities and includes the only national river park in Georgia. No other river in Georgia provides these essential services.

Without a river flow target, there is no certainty that enough water will be available every day in the 113-mile stretch of river from Buford Dam to West Point Lake to meet water quality standards and provide recreational flows.

Why does EPD want to abolish the flow requirement? One argument is that the river below Atlanta has seen “improvements.” In other words, because the river is no longer as contaminated with sewage — a situation that EPD allowed for decades — it is now acceptable to reduce the flow of water in the river, thereby putting this 65-mile stretch back

into jeopardy.

EPD also claims that its proposal is just a housekeeping revision to clarify “confusing” rules and to make it clear that the agency will treat this section of the Chattahoochee consistently with other regulated streams. But no rivers in Georgia are treated with anything resembling complete consistency; one size never fits all.

Holding More Water in Lake Lanier?

Veteran observers of the tristate water conflict wonder if this action isn't really about removing an impediment (the flow requirement) to hoard

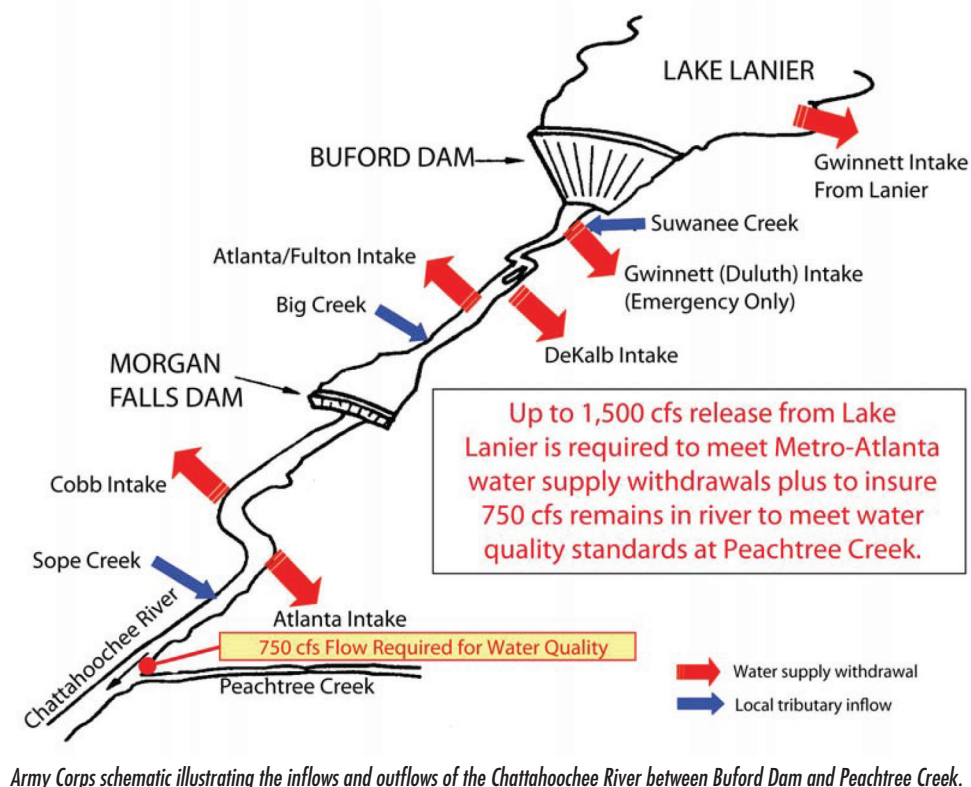
water in Lake Lanier during droughts. In other words, is this another gaming move to benefit Atlanta growth at the expense of everyone downstream?

The proposed rule change is a slap in the face to the privately-initiated and funded ACF Stakeholders Group that just released a sustainable water management plan, which relies on that 750 cfs flow.

Worse, and even more questionable: no one at EPD reached out to the National Park Service, to affected local officials and state legislators, to outfitters, park advocates and environmental organizations, or to any citizens whose use and enjoyment of the Chattahoochee may be impacted by this rule change. A notice was placed in required publications and it was mentioned briefly in a meeting at the end of last year.

If EPD believes the 750 cfs flow requirement isn't the right number or prefers a seasonal flow regime to guide the Corps in its water releases from Buford Dam, then the agency must follow a logical protocol — a transparent stakeholder process, a scientifically-based study and a comprehensive monitoring program — before asking the Georgia Board of Natural Resources to approve the rule change.

Until then, as one journalist noted, “If it ain't broke, don't fix it!”



Army Corps schematic illustrating the inflows and outflows of the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and Peachtree Creek.



LEGISLATIVE ACTS IMPACT WATER QUALITY

This year marked the 14th year that CRK worked on a shared legislative agenda with the Georgia Water Coalition (GWC). While CRK's partners addressed dozens of bills throughout the session, there was a concentrated effort on four pieces of proposed legislation with major implications for water quality.

Two bills were introduced to significantly broaden protection of valuable water bodies throughout the state. SB 101 succeeded in establishing a statutory 25-foot buffer along Coastal Georgia's priceless marshlands. The bill was introduced to combat the state EPD's infamous "Earth Day Memo," which stripped the coast of protections previously afforded to freshwater rivers, streams and lakes state-wide. GWC ensured that SB 101 passed easily and re-established strong buffer protections to protect coastal waters from many threats to water quality.

CRK and its partners also advanced SB 36, which will ensure that surface waters cannot be pumped into and contaminate a pristine groundwater aquifer. The bill made it through the Senate this year, and if passed by the House of Representatives in 2016 will protect the Floridan Aquifer, which extends from beneath our sister river the Flint deep into Florida.

Plastic bag rules remain local issue

GWC also opposed a number of threats to Georgia's waters. The coalition energized a broad spectrum of diverse interests to soundly defeat SB 139, which proposed to give the State total authority over potential plastic bag regulation by stripping county and city governments of the power to make those decisions locally. Finally, despite vehement opposition from CRK and our partners, HB 397 passed the General Assembly. The bill drastically changes the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, which oversees the manual for construction erosion and sedimentation controls. The bill could impede progress being made to update the manual and ensure our waterways are best protected from construction runoff. CRK will be monitoring the fallout from this legislation closely, and we will continue to work with our elected officials to ensure our waters are protected.

STAKEHOLDERS MOVE TO END WATER WAR *(continued from page 1)*

On May 13, the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders (ACFS) approved a Sustainable Water Management Plan to promote sustainable and equitable management of the ACF river basin.

The Sustainable Water Management Plan (SWMP) is the result of six years and \$1.7 million worth of data collection, modeling, meeting facilitation, and plan drafting. At nearly 140 pages, the plan includes a suite of consensus-based recommendations for the Corps of Engineers and the governors of Alabama, Florida and Georgia.

Key Takeaways

- The plan recommends that the Corps and the three states rely on **adaptive management**; science would be the primary driver behind any changes in operations to accommodate shifting ecological and climate conditions.
- **No new reservoirs are required:** More water is available for use throughout the ACF basin through operational changes alone.
- ACFS agreed by consensus to **use a flow standard of 750 cubic feet per second (cfs)** in the Chattahoochee River at Peachtree Creek as the metric for assessing whether water quality needs were met (*see story on page 6*).



Atlanta skyline

Where the SWMP Needs Improvement

While the Water Management Plan is a strong step forward in resolving this conflict, it falls short in other areas. Namely, while adequate water may be available to downstream communities through this plan, there are no recommendations regarding how it should be shared during drought events.

It also fails to specify water use reduction requirements for the Metro area while agricultural users in the Flint sub-basin are required to make significant reductions. While metro Atlanta

has generated notable water use reductions through conservation efforts, more can be done: the implementation of a just a few cost-effective measures could save nearly 400 million gallons of water per day. That's enough water to serve nearly 2.6 million people each day (*see our Filling the Water Gap report on line*).

As the Stakeholder group transitions into the next phase of implementation, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper will stay involved and continue to advocate for the public release of all technical and scientific information generated during plan development in order to assist the three state governors and Army Corps leaders to consider the recommendations.



February 2015- Capital Conservation Day, where 100+ citizens advocated for clean water.

SPRING EVENTS RAISE WATER AWARENESS

Gorgeous spring weather brought thousands of CRK friends out to many of our river-themed events. Whether through our multi-site cleanup or our river race, people of all ages embraced their opportunity to give back and celebrate our precious river. In April our annual **Sweep the Hooch** saw more than 500 volunteers remove a remarkable 7.16 tons of trash from more than 38 sites along the Chattahoochee. Thanks to our sponsors **Cox Enterprises, The Home Depot, SignUp4, Kimberly-Clark Corporation** and many others.



Photo courtesy of Erik Voss

500+ volunteers pulled more than 7 tons of trash out the river at this year's Sweep the Hooch.

The May event **Art of Water** continues to gain popularity, attracting more than 600 people to Main Street LaGrange. Attendees experienced water-inspired art at the Cochran Gallery, live music and outfitters. Special thanks to our sponsor, **Interface**, and many others for helping to make this event a success.

Also in May, our rock concert **River Revival** saw nearly 500 guests celebrate clean water while grooving to the soulful tunes of Grammy nominee Tab Benoit and other musical talents. Additionally, we honored our **2015 River Rockstar** recipients: Jack Johnson, encyclomedia, and Tab Benoit. Many thanks to our sponsors, including: **Ellis Communications, Terminal West, SweetWater Brewing Company, Cox Enterprises, Victor Haydel, Southwire** and **Weed Man Lawn Care**.



Photo courtesy of Ian Rawlin

Headliner Tab Benoit brought hundreds out for River Revival this year and was also awarded a River Rock Star Award for his wetland conservation efforts.

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cyork@chattahoochee.org.

A very successful screening of the **Wild and Scenic Film Festival** at the Brenau Downtown Center in Gainesville in late May was attended by nearly 300 people. We want to thank **Patagonia, The Outside World, University of North Georgia** and others for their support.



Photo courtesy of Kent Ruby

Paddlers of all ages and skill levels enjoyed this year's river race.

Last, but certainly not least, our annual **Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival** was a hit! On June 13, more than 400 paddlers took to the river for a day of racing. Many thanks to our presenting sponsors, **Colonial Pipeline** and **MeadWestvaco**, and others who continue to make the event a tremendous success.