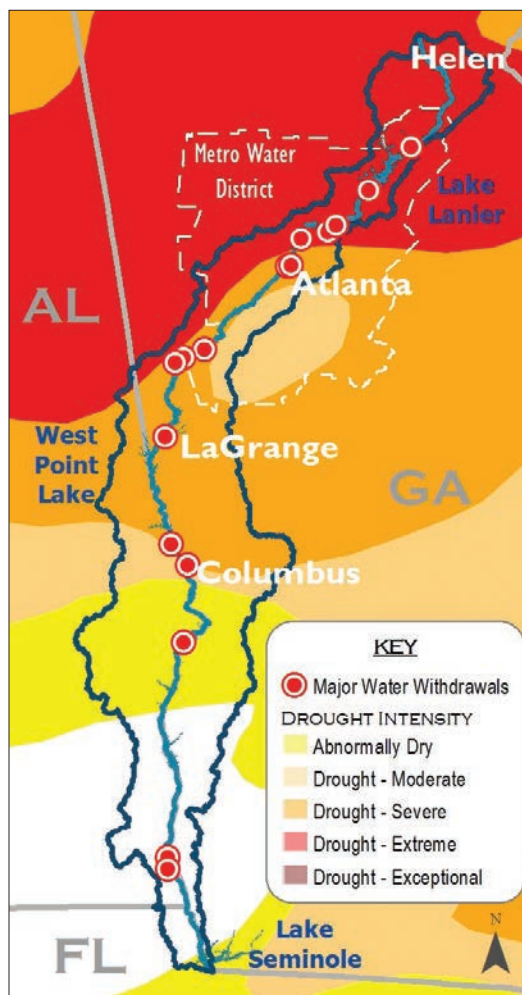


DROUGHT and a Changing Climate in the Chattahoochee

Though the effects of climate change often seem distant, the Chattahoochee River is already feeling the heat.

For the first half of 2017, Georgia mountain streams that feed the Chattahoochee were running at historic low flows. Less rainfall in the mountains meant a low water level in Lake Lanier, and lower flows in the river downstream of Buford Dam. Late spring rains helped raise lake levels, but Lake Lanier still entered the summer season more than six feet below full pool.

Chattahoochee Basin Drought Conditions in January 2017



Sometimes it takes a drought to remind us how important the Chattahoochee River is in our day-to-day life. Each day, we draw hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the river and its lakes for drinking, landscaping, recreation, agriculture,

industry, electricity production and sanitation. More than four million people use water from the Chattahoochee daily, and the river supports hundreds of plant and animal species.

The drought will end, but the demands on our river are only set to increase in pace with population growth in the region. As we plan for the growing demand on the river and future impacts of climate change in the region, it becomes more important than ever to take a big picture approach.

The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Metro District), which includes the 15-county metro Atlanta area, recently completed a comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan that outlines strategies for regional watershed management. Climate change will be an important consideration for future planning, and the Metro District is the first of Georgia's 11 water planning regions to explicitly include climate resiliency in its long range water supply, wastewater and watershed planning.

“With millions of people in metro Atlanta depending on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Basin for their water supply, it is critical to consider climate resiliency in water planning,” said Danny Johnson, Manager of the District.

Rising temperatures are already becoming part of the climate resiliency challenge. Since 2014, each successive year has been ranked as the hottest on record. In the future, it will be important to prepare accordingly for the changing climate to avoid negative impacts to our communities and environment in the Chattahoochee region.

“The Chattahoochee River Basin is likely to experience many challenges to our water infrastructure as a result of climate change,” said J. Marshall Shepherd, Director for the Program in Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Georgia.

Water-Saving Checklist

Indoors:

- ✓ Wash laundry and dishes only when you have a full load
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets and ‘running’ toilets
- ✓ Install low-flow water fixtures and water-efficient toilets (free kits and rebates available from your water utility)

Outdoors:

- ✓ Avoid new plantings or use drought tolerant plants
- ✓ Mulch to retain soil moisture
- ✓ Install a rain barrel or cistern for irrigation
- ✓ Reduce outdoor watering and avoid watering during the day
- ✓ Use drip irrigation instead of sprinklers
- ✓ Avoid pressure washing

Saving Energy Saves Water Too!

- ✓ Replace old light bulbs with LED bulbs
- ✓ Install a programmable thermostat
- ✓ Update appliances to ENERGY STAR and water efficient models

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) will host Shepherd, along with **acclaimed author Paul Hawken and numerous regional experts, on September 27-28 at our inaugural Climate Change Conference.** We invite you to join us to learn about some of the challenges and solutions for protecting our waters in a changing climate.



September 27-28, 2017

For more information, visit:
chattahoochee.org/our-work/water-conservation-programs/

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

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REFLECTIONS OF THE RIVERKEEPER

During a recent camping trip with my family, I found myself reflecting on my childhood and comparing it to how kids are growing up today.

I spent much of my young life fishing and exploring the woods. Those experiences played a significant role in making me who I am today.



When I was growing up, we did not have nearly the number of technological distractions that we have today. There was no internet, iPods or iPads. There were no smartphones, email or social media.

As I sat comfortably in my camp chair watching my six-year-old son dig for worms and my eight-year-old daughter play in the canoe resting at the water's edge, I thought about how today's technology and devices compete with children's time outdoors.

How many kids today are glued to a device for a large portion of each day? What impact is that having on their development? How will their early experiences affect their perception of the environment and our natural world when they are adults?

When my children were born, I made a goal to raise them with a strong sense of environmental awareness. We recycle, pick up trash as we go for walks and talk about not wasting water at home.

On my recent camping trip, I remembered that spending unstructured time outdoors can be just as formative. Whether we're taking a long hike in the woods or fishing on a lazy river, it is time far better spent than playing on a digital device.

I have made a commitment to double down and spend as much time outdoors with my kids as possible, and I hope all parents and grandparents will do the same. Our kids' river and planet will benefit from our effort to create nature lovers today.



FACES OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE

“As farmers, we all have the same challenge once the ground is broken and you have plants to nourish: a plentiful supply of water.

Hopefully there's an abundance of rain, but as with recent drought conditions that hasn't always been the case. Along with groundwater, Long Cane Creek (a tributary of the Chattahoochee River) is the nearest source of water for me—what happens when there's not enough rainfall to recharge the creek though, I don't know.

With everything happening these days and the thought of climate change, water conservation makes economic sense. Fortunately, it's coming up more often in conversations with other farmers.

I'm also glad that groups like CRK are taking on the role of education and advocacy. Otherwise the water resources I depend on may not be around for future generations.”

ERIC SIMPSON
New Eden Ecosystem
West Point, Georgia
newedenecosystem.com



ON PATROL WITH CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

NOT SO “ROTTEN”WOOD CREEK

Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) volunteer Greg Grantham took one whiff of Rottenwood Creek and knew something was off. Tests indicated there was a serious problem, so CRK trackers donned waders in search of the source. Real-time optical brightener tests helped to find raw sewage flowing from a broken pipe at an apartment complex into Rottenwood Creek not far from the Chattahoochee River. **Spurred by media attention from WSB-TV, the apartment complex made necessary repairs to stop the spill** and water quality has returned to normal levels.

TRACKING GETS TIRESOME

A massive tire dump (**estimated at more than 10,000 tires!**) was discovered in Proctor Creek’s Valley of the Hawks while CRK pollution trackers were investigating high bacteria levels in a nearby tributary. Trackers were able to locate and stop the bacteria source, but the titanic tire dump has yet to be removed. Tire recycling fees are largely diverted from the state fund that should pay for tire dump clean-ups. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has been notified and we are pursuing a cleanup plan for the illegal dump.

PROPOSAL FOR ATV PARK ALONG RIVER WITHDRAWN

In early July, Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR) announced that it would no longer pursue plans to build a 14-mile network of ATV trails along the Chattahoochee River at Bush Head Shoals in Heard County. CRK and dozens of concerned citizens voiced opposition to this poorly sited ATV park in written comment and at public meetings citing concerns about noise, trespassing, safety, wildlife protection and erosion. The individual who sold the 700-acre property to a conservation group, which then deeded it to the state, wrote in opposition to the plan that, **“I cannot imagine a use more inconsistent with my intent...”**

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

HELEN

NWW EXPANDS TO CLARKSVILLE REGION

NWW is coming to the Soque River watershed thanks to a new partnership with North Georgia Technical College and the Soque River Watershed Association. Together, we established a drop-off location for volunteers to deliver water samples in Clarksville. This expansion allows CRK to engage people living in the uppermost part of the Chattahoochee watershed. These water samples are being processed in a laboratory at North Georgia Technical College in accordance with CRK protocols.

CITY DENIES LANDFILL PROPOSAL

CRK successfully opposed a proposal from a private landowner to create an inert landfill adjacent to Big Creek—at a site approximately half of a mile from Lake Lanier and 7,500 feet upstream of Buford’s municipal drinking water intake. Buford’s Board of Commission acknowledged residents’ and CRK’s concerns and denied the proposal.



RED ALERT: SEWER SPILL FOUND DURING A RIVER PATROL

During a May river patrol, CRK discovered foul, bright red water pouring into the Chattahoochee River in south Fulton County. We tracked the spill up to a broken sewer line, which was caused by erosion and a fallen tree. Fulton County crews fixed the broken line the next day and reported that the bright red liquid was soft drink syrup from a local beverage manufacturing company with a permit to send excess syrup to the wastewater treatment facility. Fulton County estimates that **more than 17,000 gallons of raw sewage mixed with soft drink syrup spilled into the river** before the pipe was repaired.

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/our-work/enforcing-environmental-laws

THE FISH HAWK-IN DANGER AGAIN?

Though the Osprey is the second most widely distributed raptor in the world, its life along shores puts it at risk—again.

Ospreys, like many birds of prey, were brought to the brink of extinction due to exposure to DDT, a farming pesticide used in the early-to-mid-20th century. Before DDT was banned in 1972, the United States’ Osprey population was rapidly declining.

Today, populations have returned and new generations are thriving, but this upward trend may be threatened in the coming years due to habitat loss along our nation’s waterways. Change in climate and rising sea levels threaten these migratory hawks, as 79 percent of their summer migratory range could be underwater by the year 2080. Since their diet consists only of fish, inundated shorelines means more Ospreys will have to compete over less prime habitat.

Sightings of the charismatic bird are always a treat—just ask West Point Lake Floating Classroom (WPLFC) students that get an up

close and personal look at these birds in their natural habitat.

“One of the most rewarding parts of our floating classroom programs is watching students as they spot Ospreys through binoculars with excited exclamations. These sightings are a definite highlight for us.”

- Laura Breyfogle,
CRK’s WPLFC Naturalist

West Point Lake is a great place to see these magnificent birds, partly because of small bald cypress trees that inhabit the shallows. It is rumored that these trees, which are not native to the Chattahoochee River basin,



Creative Commons

were planted in the late-1960s by ranger John Anderson to warn boaters of shallow water. The trees stand approximately 8 to 10 feet tall and are completely isolated from shore, making great nesting sites for Ospreys.

So the next time you’re on the water, look around and make sure to catch a glimpse of this impressive bird.

RECORD-BREAKING 733 VOLUNTEERS ‘SWEEP THE HOOCH’

A record-breaking 733 volunteers dug into the nooks and crannies of more than 40 sites in and around the Chattahoochee River for CRK’s annual Sweep the Hooch clean-up event. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers, we removed 16.7 tons of trash!



CRK organized the multi-site cleanup in partnership with the National Park Service and the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Volunteers served in three different capacities at the cleanup: paddlers picking up trash from the water, waders cleaning the river banks and walkers canvassing the grounds adjacent to our

river and streams. These volunteers spread out across 43 sites and spent half the day pulling trash and debris from the river. “Participating in an event like Sweep the Hooch is a fun way to explore different sections of the river,” said Jerry Duncan, who volunteered at the Jones Bridge site in Fulton County.

“It’s amazing the amount of trash that is collected year after year, plus the number of volunteers. It’s truly amazing.”

- Jerry Duncan,
Jones Bridge volunteer

The record-breaking 733 volunteers were a 25 percent increase from the previous year, despite high water levels and unseasonably cool temperatures after heavy rains earlier in the week.

“We sincerely appreciate the efforts of all the volunteers and sponsors to clean trash and debris from more than 100 river miles along the Chattahoochee,” said Jason Ulseth, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. “We are thrilled we were able to set a new volunteer record in 2017 and look forward to another big year in 2018!”

CRK’s and our partners’ efforts through Sweep the Hooch have removed more than 58 tons of trash and debris with the help of nearly 4,000 volunteers since it began in 2011.



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January through June 2017

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Richard Catrambone	Elizabeth Ervin	Willie Handlee	Rebecca Kelly	Mary & Michael McCarthy Sr.
Allison Cauthen	Lisa Esapa	Art Hansen	Jan Kepic	Tamara McClelland
MaryAnn Cauthen	Conchi Estivariz	Kyle Hansen	Joe Kidd	McClung Family
Amy Celec	Elizabeth Evans	John Haralson	Eric King	Cynthia McCollough
James Chaffin	Erin & Jeremy Evans	Sophie & Ian Harkins	Evelyn Kirby	Clara McComb
Ronnie Chavez	Benjamin Everette	Sue Harmon	Gillespie Kirkland	Sandy McCray
Fernando Chen	Glianny Fagundo & Maria Toro	Andrew Harper	Linda Kirkman	Maggie McDonald
Kristina Cherry	Elizabeth & Mathew Fallon	Richard Harper	Anna Kirkpatrick	Jared McFarlin
Sue & Tim Chisholm	Noha Farag & Fatma Rashed	Linda Harrah	Carl Kirkpatrick	Norman McGinnis
Rohit Chitre	Maria Farrar	John Harris	Harriet & Kip Kirkpatrick	Bill McGoldrick
Alice Christenson	Jeremy Faughtenberry	Matthew Harris	Peter Knaup &	Victoria McHugh
Susan & Fred Christian	John Ferguson	Charles Harrison III	Jose de Athayde Neto	Linda McKay
Bill Christie	Susan Ferguson	Sabine Haselhurst	Dyna & John Kohler	Strphanie McKinnell
Brooks Clay	Michael Ferrara	Jen & Matt Hauser	Elizabeth Kohler	Glaucia & Duncan McLauchlan
Brian Clements	Andrew Fine	Liz Hausman	Holly & Marshall Korschun	Marianne McNelly
Pete Clements	Linda Finn	Charles Hawkins	Diane & Gene Korzeniewski	Connor McRae
Adam Clifton	Margaret Fisher	Darlene Hawksley	Hannah Kraar	Kendall McRae
Pamela Coan	Glenn Flake	Carol Hayes	Daniel Krase	Michael Medlin
Coca-Cola Bottling Company of	Chris Fletcher	Cathi Hayes	Prema Krishnan	Daniel Meier
Northern New England	Ginger Florey-Powell	Patrick Healy	Craig Krugman	Sharon & Cliff Meinhardt
Elie Cohen	Michael Fogas	Marny Heit	Jake Krzysiak	Danielle Mekulsia
George Cohen	Ryan Fogg	Chris Hendell	Tamara Kullback	Holly Melvin
Rick Cohen	Lisa Forniss	Denise Henderson	Ralph Kytan	Will Merrill
Anna & Jason Cole	Mozella Forniss	Don Henderson	Meagan & Ryan Lafferty	Marilyn Metzler
Justin & Laura Coleman	Byron Foster	Kevin Henggeler	Emily & Jarvis Lakemaker	Gabrielle Micale
Jesse Colkett	Andy Fotiades	Anne-Renee Heningburg	Bryna Lamb	Microsoft
Sally & Thomas Colkett	Christine Fountain	Grace Hennessy	Lisa & Neil Lambert	Debbie & John Miller
Merrideth Colwell &	Francesconi Family	Barbara & Doug Henry	Dean Lamm	Erica Miller
Thomas Shea	Jerri Franco	Donna Hesketh	Julie LaMothe	Jeff Miller
Steve Combs	Casey Fraser	Amanda Hickman	Tamara Landeis	Judy & John Miller
Eric Conder	Carlin Fravel	Gordon Hilbun	Langston Langston	Phyllis Miller
Nancy & Rob Conley	James Frederick	Craig Hill	Karen Lapeyrouse	Adyson Mills
Debbie & Joseph Connell	Linda & Frank Frederick	Donna Hill	Gail Latham	Ms. Barbara Mills &
Roberta Cook	Benjamin Freeman	Karen Hill	Dominique & Thomas Lawton	Mr. George Geeslin
Amanda & Jude Cooks	Cathy Freeman	Patrick Hill	Christi Lazear	Kaye & Greg Minchew
Allen Cooper	Joan Frierson	Liz & Maiben Hillick	Elizabeth Lear	Lisa Mitchell
Deborah Cooper	Carl Fuller	Bradley Hilton	Katelyn & Taylor LeBlanc	Kenneth Mock
Jessica Cooper	Fulton Family	Nancy & Elvin Hilyer	Richard Lebovitz	Barbara Moore
Liz Cornish	Caitlin Fynan	Alex Hinerfeld	John & Katie Lee	James Moore
Annie Couch	Malinda Fynan	Vinard Hitt	Krista & Clifford Lee	Michelle Morgan
Diane Cousins	Neil Gaines	Jason Hjelseth	Phillip Lee	James Morris
Josh Covin	Elizabeth & Jean Gammage	Kim Hobbs	Glenn Legacki	Shirley & Keith Morris
Vanessa & Ian Cowie	Jairo Garcia	Robert Hoff	Sue & Robert Leggett	John Morrow
Paul Cox	April Gardner	Stacey Hoffman	Sharon & John Lemire	Lora Morse
Stephanie & Steve Cox	Mckenzie Gates	Cassandra Hoffmann	Kris Leszczynski	Trey Mosier &
Joshua Crane-Whittington	Danita Gaudette	Jeanine Alfredsson Hogan &	Levine Family	Alicia Higginbotham
David Crean	Donna & Jim Gawlas	William Hogan	Michael Levine	Claire M. Mullin
Sandra Creaney	Anne Gentry	Sean Holcombe	Bonny & Bill Levinson	Lamar Mullis
Dean Crist	Georgia Women Flyfishers	Fran Holland	Catherine Lewis Saenz	Warren Mullis
Rowena Cromer	Elizabeth Gerlach	Elizabeth Holmes	Melissa Lewis Saenz	Casey & Jason Mummaw
Abby Crowe	Anne Gerry	Ellie Honey	Lynne Lindsay	John Murillo
Alex Crumpler	Josh Gilbert	Michael Honnold	Cary Liner	Trudy Murphy
Christine Curtin	Leigh Gilbert	Vici Hood	Rashan Linton	Elise Myers
Bruce Cutler	Rebecca Gilbert	Shae Hoschek	Simon Locke	Jeffrey Nachamkin
Caren Daivs	Edward S. Giles Jr.	Joan & Carson Hostetter	Jesse Logan	Mr. Richard Nailling &
Anna F. Dancu	Joye Girardot	Carol & Jens Houkens	Mark Logan	Ms. Janet Schoff
Leslie Daniels	Mr. Joey Giunta &	Douglas Howard	Emilie & Scott Long	Donna Najafi
Chase Dasilva	Ms. Beckie Hawkins	Melissa & Duncan Hughes	Larry Long	Ruth & Tony Narcisse
Laura Davis	Kris Goettig	Ricardo Humareda	Michael Looney	Robert Narvaez

Early Nathan
Justin Neal
Tammy Neal
Phillip Neill
Angela Nelson
Beth & Chris Nelson
Teresa Nelson
Ann Newman
Susan & Mike Newsome
Julie Nguyen
Nick Nichols
Tim Nichols
Jim Nickens
Meredith Nienkamp
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Lana Norris
Thaddeus North
Northrop Family
Chris Novaic
Zona & Ron Noyes
Jim Nuetzel
David Ohmann
Denise Olive
Tim Olive
Joyce Oliver
Evelyn Orenbuch
Lynda-Martins Osadebe
Chris Osment
Matt Osucha
Ruari O’Sullivan
Angela OToole
Linda Owen
Bonnie Owenby
Chris Owens
Lauren Panetta
Diane & Philip Parker
Sandra & Thomas Parker
Beth Parsons
Willa Patzer
Joseph Paul
Jayne G. Pauley
Debra Pauli
Sharon Pauli
Nikolina Payne
Mary & William Peebles
Ryan Pelfrey
Faye Perdue
Angela Perry
Richard Pfeiffer
Brian Pheil
James Pickard
Dita Pickering
Justin Pickett
Libba & William Pickren
Jan Pierce
John Pinyerd
Andrew Pirrello
John Pirrello
John Pittman
Sandra Platten
Betsie Poinsett
Kimberly Poole
Nancy & Lendy Poole
Rosie & Bob Popp
Karen Porch
Colin Porter
Jessica Powell
Barb Price
Susan Price
Matt Pridgen
Kayla & Lee Pruett
John Pulliam
Jay Purut
Kimberly Putnam
Carl Quertermus
Pawel & Thamara Racis
John Radtke
Steve Radtke
Marsha & Joseph Ralph
Erica & Mark Rambler
Rob Randall

Gil Rapley
Tom Rasmussen
Laura Ratliff
Sylwester Ratowt
Nikki Ray
Lauren Reece
Bonney Reed-Knight
Doug Reineke
Paula Reith
Angela Rhoton
David Rich
Jen Richards
Jennifer Richardson
Troy Richmond
Stephen Rickaby
Don Riddell
Jennifer Riley
Rincon Family
Trey Rinesmith
Katie & Douglas Roberts
Sherry & Dan Robinson
Alejandra Rodriguez
Anthony Rogers
Ben & Jennifer Rogers
Dean & Joanne Rogers
Patty & John Rogers
Ryan Rogers
Sean Rogers
Amanda Romig
Mark Romzick
Ryan Ronnenberg
Brett Rosen
Justin Rosenbleeth
Michael Rosenthal
Mary Rosevear
Sandra Ross
Dave Rosselle
Roy Rubin
Bob Ruby
Jonathan Rucks
John Ruggiero
Lisa Rule
Don Russell
Robby Russell
Steven Ryan
Elizabeth Sabel
Michael Sabula &
Ruth Ann Steinbrecher
Howard Salk
Tracy Sample
Lee Sanders
Lyndsey Sargent
Fisher Saude
Patricia Saude
Betsy Savage
Kismet Scarborough
Anthony Scavo
Mary Schauer
Maverick Schippmann
Schippmann Family
Bob Schmitt
Jennifer Schneider
Laura Schneider
Paula Schubert
Cathy & Mitch Schueler
Joselyn & James Schutz
Schwartz Family
Tabitha Schwartz
Brad Scott
Cindy Scott
Don Scott
Erin Scott
Jocelyn & Jonathan Scott
Kaleigh & Shaun Scruggs
Linda Selinger
Jennie Sellen
Ms. Mimi Seydel &
Mr. Guy Hunt
Meena & Ned Shanmugham
Cheryl Shaw
John Shaw

Stacy Sheets
Kramer Shiflett
Will Shill
James Shimkus
Jean Shirley
Heather Sholes
Betty Rose & Thomas Shope
Randy Silver
Greg Simmon
Charity Simmons
Susan & Robin Simms
Barbara & Dudley Sisk
Melissa Sisson
Norman Slawsky
Robert Slotin
Paul Slovisky
Betty & Paul Smith
Cheryl Smith
Chris Smith
Erik Smith
Gary Smith
Julie Smith
Lyn Smith
Mike Smith
Ric Smith
Sharon Smith
Kim Smith-Bufton
Smoke Rise Garden Club
Ashley Snider
Ray-Lynn Snowden
Mark Soll
Tiffany Sornpao
Sharon Sowders
Rick Spann
Susan Spann
Brenda Speir
Melissa Spencer
Ron Spiers
Samantha Spitzner
Chuck Spornick
Sheila Spruill
Steve St Laurent
Joy & Fred Staeck
Gord Stefaniuk
Jessica Stehlin
Telle Stein
Karen Stephens
Andy Stevens
Mark Stevens
Carol Stewart
Jean & Tom Stewart
Don Still
Cheri Stone
James Story
Robert Strangia
Kat Stratton
Jennifer & Max Street
Greg Stuart
Marc Suarez
Genevieve Summer
Michael Summer
Joseph Summerour
Brent Swiger
Craig Swiger
Lou Tabickman
Peter Tamblyn
Martha & Terry Tankersley
Jill Taylor
Kathy Tedeschi
Kayne Tedone
Kelly Teem
Allen Tennis
The Lovett School
Jennifer Thomas
Patricia Thompson
Corinne & Jim Thornton
Barbara Tiszai
Georgia Todd
Christina Toliver-Ehrhardt
Alan Toney
Sarah Topper

Judy Toppins
Travis Towns
Joe Townsend
Katie Troline
Circe Tsui
Anna Tucker
Norma Tucker
Lisa Turner
Rhonda Turner
Wilma Turner
Hunter Tuttle
Della & Steve Twite
Aaron Tyre
Ms. Mandy Ulseth &
Mr. Delorean Ostrom
United Health Group
Daniel Vaccaro
Karen Vaglia
Sara Valentine
Jill Van Auken
Laura Van Der Mandele
Kilsup Van Lieu
Joanne Vandewater
Christine Vanover
James Varda
Anne Venero
Steven Vickery
Brittany Friedman & Joshua Videlefsky
Angela Vines
Henry Voelker
Andy Vogel
Robert Vogelei
Sarah Volling
Arthur Volpi
Henning Von Schmeling
Paul Von Ward
Tory Vornholt
Jason Walburn
Victoria Walburn
Kurt Waldner
Cipriana Walker
Mary Beth Walker
Todd Walker
Zachery Walker
Scott Wanzor
Dona Ward
Robert Ward
Dawn Ware
Jon & Melanie Washburn
Morning Washburn
Adam Webb
Donald Webb
Gary Weeks
Carolyn Wells
Michael Wells
Joy & Bob Werth
George West
Vicki & Thomas West
Lacey Wheeler
Richard & Annie Wheeler
Paula Whitaker
Andrew White
Cindy White
Joan White
Kristian & Matt Whittington
Karen Wilkins
Jennifer Wilkinson
Adam Willers
Bruce Williams
Eulouise & Joe Williams
James Williams
Kevin Williams
Lois & David Williams
Matt Williams
Michael Williams
Pam Williford
Anna Willis
Gina Willis
Jarod Wills
Wayne Wilson

Cary Wise
Sarah Wise
Michael Wisener
Nancy Witham
Sherry Wittenberg
Heidi & Thomas Wolff
Jere Wood
Donna Woody
Sue Wortman
Heath Yates
Christie Young
Parker Young
Cory Zahner
Rad Zamani
Mike Zamora
Brian Zelis
Claire Zens

IN HONOR OF/ MEMORIALS

In honor of J. Carolyn
Leonard Seal

In memory of Kevin Dyer
Joi & Robbie Cook
William Eason
Heidi Moreno & Jennifer Arvin
Jere & Michael O’Reilly

In memory of Hans Ernst
Jeanette Colbert

In honor of Art Hansen
Kaitlin Hansen

In memory of June Klein
Amy Dunkin
Myra Fineman

In honor of Tamara Neal
Meredith Bentley-Barlow

In honor of Jennifer Nourollahi
Lydia T. Lichtenberger

In honor of Mary Schrepfer
Antoinette Appling

GIFTS IN-KIND

97.1 The River
AJC
Another Broken Egg
Atlanta Department of
Watershed Management
Batdorf & Bronson
Coffee Roasters
Big Daddy DJ
Brenau University, Inc.
Classic Tents & Events
Clear Channel
Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Family 2 Family
First Baptist Roswell Church
Home Depot - Norcross
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Patagonia Atlanta
Publix Supermarkets Charities
Shane’s Rib Shack
Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP
Sweetwater Brewing Company
The Coca-Cola Company
The Home Depot
The Kroger Company
Foundation
The Outside World
Tom Wilson



Chattahoochee Riverkeeper’s staff, board and volunteers are working hard every day to protect our river, lakes, and watershed: patrolling in our boats, monitoring neighborhood streams, teaching students on our floating classrooms, collaborating with government officials and business leaders, and fighting for our right to clean water in the courtroom. With your help, we will continue to stand strong to ensure that our drinking water is clean and safe and that our Chattahoochee River is protected for us now and for future generations. There is strength in numbers; now more than ever, we need your support!

Please become a member today. Join the thousands of people who are already helping us keep watch over our water by donating at www.chattahoochee.org.

ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY FLOATING CLASSROOM

For many years, CRK dreamed of reaching more disadvantaged and underserved youth from Atlanta Public Schools (APS) with our on-the-water environmental education experience—a trip on the Lake Lanier Aquatic Learning Center, or “floating classroom.” Last year, that dream was made a reality.

Since the scholarship program for the floating classroom began in 2008, CRK had been unable to reach these students directly because of an unwritten rule that prohibited APS students from participating in on-the-water field trips.

“We wanted these children to have the experience, too; so we reached them through after-school programs like the Boys and Girls Club,” said Becca Klein, CRK Development Director. “But we knew we were still missing many children who should also get this opportunity.”

Well, as they say—where there’s a will, there’s a way; CRK was determined to find the way.

Over the course of the past year, CRK worked diligently with the APS Superintendent’s Office and their legal department to find a way to make the field trips possible. **Finally, last fall an agreement was reached and CRK was given the green light to start working directly with Title One middle schools.**



“This opportunity has provided our students with experiences that enhance the instruction that they receive in the classroom with real-world applications that support our focus to produce environmental stewards.”

- Rabieh J. Hafza,
6-12 grade Science Coordinator for Atlanta Public Schools

In year one of the program, **students from Long Middle School, Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy, Young Middle School and others were able to participate in the program**, which teaches youth about the connection between the river that supplies their drinking water and their day-to-day lives.

“This opportunity has provided our students with experiences that enhance the instruction that they receive in the classroom with real-world applications that

support our focus to produce environmental stewards,” said Rabieh J. Hafza, the 6-12 grade Science Coordinator for APS. “Additionally, this opportunity provides students with the experiences that they would not receive without this program and partnership.”

Each year, CRK brings more than 2,000 students on board the Lake Lanier floating classroom free of charge through scholarships.

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/our-work/education-training/

PROTECTING THE RIVER RUNS IN THE FAMILY

“The river has always been a part of our lives,” said Mary Anne Lanier.

From growing up in LaGrange and raising a family in Atlanta, Lanier has many memories of life along the Chattahoochee. As a young child she helped rescue her grandmother from her home when it was threatened by rising creek waters after heavy rains near West Point Lake. Later, she slalom skied on West Point Lake with her then-boyfriend and now-husband of 37 years, Jamie Lanier. They met in the headwaters of the Chattahoochee.

And yes, Jamie is related to Sidney Lanier, Lake Lanier’s namesake and author of the poem “The Song on the Chattahoochee.”

The daughter of Ray Anderson—Founder and Chairman of Interface Inc. and known as the world’s greenest CEO—Lanier is carrying on her father’s legacy as a trustee of the Ray C. Anderson Foundation.



Two years ago, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth invited Lanier and her family on board the CRK patrol boat to tour the river below Peachtree Creek, where nearly a dozen wastewater facilities and power

plants discharge into the river. On the boat, she rediscovered her love of the river. “The river is incredibly important to protect because it serves the basic needs of millions of people,” said Lanier.

“It’s a privilege to protect the river, just like my Dad did.”
- Mary Anne Lanier

Lanier joined the CRK Board of Directors and rolled up her sleeves as **Chair of the upcoming 2017 Climate Change Conference**. The conference will explore solutions for resiliency, and will feature Paul Hawken, Executive Director of Project Drawdown. “Project Drawdown is not just a book, it’s an ongoing project with a roadmap of practical solutions that if scaled would reduce carbon levels in our atmosphere and lead to a resilient future,” said Lanier.

CORPS IMPLEMENTS POLARIZING NEW STANDARDS FOR LAKE LANIER OPERATIONS

Closing the book on a years-long effort, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued final approval of the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin (ACF Basin) on March 30.

The Water Control Manual outlines how the Corps manages its federal reservoir projects within the ACF Basin, which include Metro Atlanta’s primary water supply reservoir at Lake Lanier and Buford Dam.

The update is an effort to balance operations of the dams between the Corps’ federally authorized purposes and the ever-growing demands for water from the basin. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper closely scrutinized the effort to update the Manual, which was informally updated in the late 1980s, but had not undergone formal revisions since the 1950s.

In January 2016, we submitted lengthy comments on the draft manual. The final version was released in December 2016—with substantive changes that addressed some of our concerns—and formally approved in March.

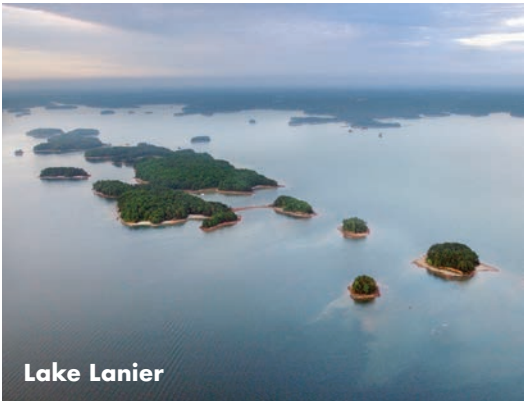
The update to the manual has not come without controversy. At least two lawsuits—

one by the State of Alabama and one from three nonprofits led by Apalachicola Riverkeeper—were filed challenging the validity of the updated manual.

A major concern is with the Corps granting the State of Georgia’s request for an increase in water withdrawals of 216 million gallons per day for a new total of 621 million gallons per day from Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee downstream of Buford Dam.

The new operations reduce the minimum required flow in the river downstream of Buford Dam during winter months to hold more water back in Lake Lanier. Nevertheless, this new seasonal flow regime is unlikely to increase storage in the lake due to the increased water withdrawals.

Allowing more water to be withdrawn to supply Metro Atlanta will mean less water for communities in Middle and South Georgia, as well as Florida. We are also concerned that lower flows in the



Lake Lanier

Chattahoochee through Atlanta will make it harder for the river to dilute wastewater discharges from urban treatment plants, which could harm water quality in downstream communities.

CRK will continue monitoring the lake and river to gauge how the new operations impact the health of our river system and advocating for increased conservation and efficiency to ensure we have enough clean water now and for future generations.

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/our-work/tri-state-water-conflict/

CRK DEEPENS ITS BENCH IN THE FACE OF THREATS TO WATER SUPPLY

When CRK analyzed the growing number of threats facing river flows in the Chattahoochee, it was clear the team needed to add some firepower to deal with the many challenges in this vital watershed. Enter Chris Manganiello.

Undeterred by the tri-state water conflict, recurring drought, dams on tributaries, and increasing impervious landscapes from roads, parking lots and buildings, Manganiello joined CRK in October 2016. In his capacity as Water Policy Director, Manganiello leads the organization’s water quantity program, tracking regional water planning at the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District and regional water councils, as well as legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Manganiello’s expertise stems from receiving his doctoral degree in environmental history from the University of Georgia in 2010, and authoring a book, *Southern Water, Southern Power: How the Politics of Cheap Energy and Water Scarcity Shaped a Region* (The University of North

Carolina Press, 2015). The book is about environmental manipulation and political power.

“People have transformed every major river in the region to secure cheap energy to fuel industrial and urban development,” Manganiello said.

“We have been slow to acknowledge the consequences of transforming rivers and adding new demands on limited water supplies in a region assumed to have endless supplies of water.”

- Chris Manganiello

A native of Maryland, Manganiello grew up riding his bike in concrete lined “creeks” and exploring the Potomac River’s recreational paradise in the heart of the Washington, DC metropolitan region. These days, Manganiello and his wife have been touring Atlanta’s in-town neighborhood



playgrounds with their two young children and dog.

“I’m enjoying working on the CRK team and collaborating with our partners in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin to protect this vital resource,” Manganiello said.

CRK'S INTERNATIONAL INTERN TEAM: THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY



Duoduo Lin and Ola Sunmonu
training NWW volunteers

Bringing a world of perspective, our international intern team is working locally to improve our waters. Duoduo Lin and Ola Sunmonu have made a huge impact in less than a year, inspiring all of us to take part where and when we can.

Duoduo joins CRK from China. She recently completed a Master's Degree of Science in Environmental Engineering at Georgia Tech. Despite the grueling school work, Duoduo wanted to make a local impact while here in Atlanta, and found a home at CRK after taking a graduate-level water quality class taught by our founding director and riverkeeper Sally Bethea.

Ola hails from Nigeria and has just received his Master's Degree in Public Health, with a special focus on Environmental Health,

"The NWW program is crucial in protecting the health of community members that rely on these waterways for livelihood or recreation."

- Ola Sunmou

from Georgia State University. Ola believes deeply in the Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) program, and became a volunteer when he moved to Atlanta. Shortly after bringing in his first water sample, Ola deepened his engagement with CRK by applying to become an intern.

Both interns have been a big help to the NWW program. Each apply their vast technical skills in the lab and are equally

quick to throw on a pair of waders and take to the field to collect water samples and track sources of pollution.

These interns work hard and stay late. They put on waders in the dead of winter and the high heat of summer, always with a smile on their face and an eagerness to do meaningful work. Their efforts have led to cleaner waters and healthier communities.

"The benefit goes both ways. Hosting an international intern team provides CRK with global perspectives. Embracing their perspective strengthens our cause, tests our fitness and adaptability, encourages ingenuity, and makes us stronger and more inclusive," said Mike Meyer, CRK's NWW program director.

ORVIS PARTNERS TO MONITOR E. COLI LEVELS IN THE HOOCH

Contamination from fecal bacteria has the potential to make people sick. It's also a major concern to the outdoor water recreation community. That's why **the 2017 Orvis Quality Hooch Program is raising funds to support the BacteriALERT project.**

BacteriALERT is a partnership between CRK, the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey to monitor bacteria levels within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA), which receives approximately three million visitors annually.

In 2015, Orvis approached CRK with the desire to start a cause marketing campaign (similar to the Save the Hooch campaign started by SweetWater Brewing Company) to raise money to support CRK's water monitoring efforts. Through in-store fundraisers, the sale of Quality Hooch hats and tees, a fishing tournament and film festival the campaign raised \$10,000!

The CRNRA encompasses 48 miles of the Chattahoochee River from Lake Sidney Lanier's Buford Dam to Atlanta; this section



CRK's Jason Ulseth
and Orvis' Paul Range

runs through the highly urbanized greater metro Atlanta region and is home to a world class trout fishery. Many CRNRA visitors participate in water-based recreational activities, including fishing. Most of the time water quality is safe. However, the CRNRA is subject to significant pollution sources, including E. coli contamination from polluted stormwater and other sources.

"Supporting the BacteriALERT project through this year's Quality Hooch Program

made perfect sense for us," said Paul Range, the retail district manager for Orvis.

"The real time data will benefit the many anglers that already enjoy the river and also better educate those that have been reluctant to participate in the past due to feared contamination."

- Paul Range,
Retail District Manager, Orvis

The BacteriALERT program is popular with Atlanta's growing outdoor recreation community because it is the only system that provides real-time information about health risks from contact with the water in the river park. Through a system of remote water quality sensors and laboratory analyzed samples, BacteriALERT issues public advisories when E. coli levels exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended values.

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/quality-hooch

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTERS HELD ACCOUNTABLE

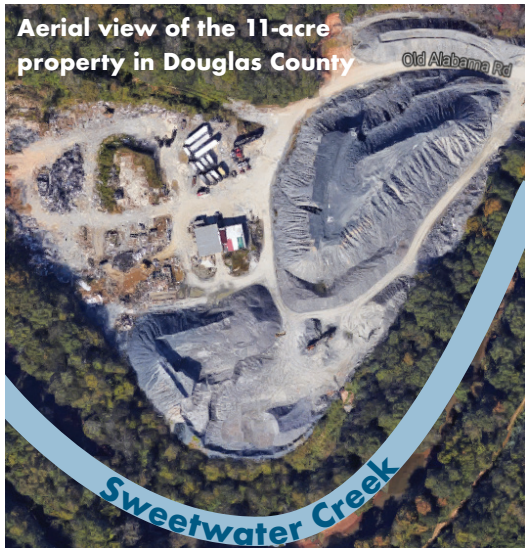
Polluted runoff from industrial sites poses a threat to water quality throughout the Chattahoochee River watershed. Through our Protecting Streams and Communities from Industrial Pollution (PSCIP) program, we use comprehensive mapping, review of state records and field investigations to find and stop industrial sites from discharging polluted runoff into our waterways when it rains. As part of our PSCIP program, CRK first attempts a proactive strategy to work with industrial site owners to bring them into compliance.

Unfortunately, not all site owners want to take proactive measures. That’s when we rely on the citizen suit provision of the Clean Water Act, which allows member organizations to enforce the laws when the government is unwilling or unable to do so.

In 2016, CRK discovered an 11-acre property in Douglas County that had towering piles of aggregate material and gravel often used in road paving projects stored on the banks of Sweetwater Creek.

During heavy rains, we observed dirty water flowing from the site into the creek. The materials running off the site and into the creek threaten the aquatic life that calls the

stream home. The pollution could also endanger Georgians that use and enjoy the creek, as the site is located five miles upstream of the popular Sweetwater Creek State Park.



CRK’s investigation revealed that the site was leased to a company that grinds aggregate material for paving projects, but lacked permits and appropriate measures to stop the flow of polluted rain water from running off site.

In this case, the owners resisted our attempts to proactively resolve these issues. After two months of phone calls and

delayed responses, we brought in Andy Thompson, Partner at Smith, Gambrell and Russell, LLP, to represent us in the case.

In January, we sent the property owners a formal notice of intent to sue pursuant to the Clean Water Act. This action prompted a response from the owners, who brought in a consultant and developed plans to install best management practices (BMPs) to control stormwater runoff as well as remove the aggregate materials.

A March site visit showed that the owners and operators were working to come into compliance with clean water laws. We continued to work closely with the owners and their consultant to ensure that appropriate BMPs are used.

In June, CRK and the property owners finalized a consent decree that settled the case, setting clear terms for the remediation of the site and establishing a plan for long-term protections to ensure the adjacent waters are not polluted by stormwater runoff.

We will continue to monitor this and hundreds of other industrial sites to keep pollution out of the Chattahoochee.

GAINESVILLE POULTRY PLANT CAPTURES POLLUTION

Flat Creek originates in midtown Gainesville and flows six miles through city neighborhoods, passing schools and churches before entering into Lake Lanier. Sadly, it’s one of the state’s most impaired waterways due to extremely high concentrations of E. coli (bacteria) and other harmful pathogens.

In 2012, CRK began a long-term monitoring program to assess the degree of the creek’s impairment. During rain events, we found bacteria levels in Flat Creek were more than 1,000 times the level recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Bacteria levels in stormwater runoff from poultry processing plants were found to be a significant contributor to the impairment.

When attempts to work proactively with poultry processing companies were unsuccessful, CRK turned to the power of the media and the authority of local, state and federal agencies. Ultimately, the EPA took enforcement action against two of the largest chicken processing plants in Gainesville. In 2016, Pilgrim’s Pride Corporation was issued a \$65,850 fine by the EPA as a result of violations to the federal Clean Water Act.



“We are committed to being better stewards of Gainesville’s aquatic resources and look forward to working with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in the future,”
-Tony Pyle, Complex Environmental Manager, Pilgrim’s Pride

This enforcement action mandated that the company implement a suite of corrective actions to control its stormwater discharges. To address its stormwater, Pilgrim’s Pride hired a full-time Complex Environmental Manager, who conducted a comprehensive site assessment of the company’s stormwater system.

In 2016, Pilgrim’s Pride invested more than \$500,000 to upgrade its stormwater infrastructure, including installing a 70,000-gallon storage tank and pump station, which captures the critical first

flush of a rain event from the facility and store the water until it can be pre-treated onsite before being sent to the city’s sewage treatment plant.

“In addition to Pilgrim’s important efforts to capture and treat its stormwater onsite, one of the best things to come from this hard work is the transparent and positive relationship we have developed with Pilgrim’s and their management,” said Dale Caldwell, Headwaters Watershed Protection Specialist at CRK.

For more information, visit: chattahoochee.org/our-work/enforcing-environmental-laws/polluted-stormwater-control



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CRK CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF ‘BACK TO THE CHATT’

More than 300 paddlers raced down the Chattahoochee on May 20 for the 15th annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival, organized by CRK in partnership with the National Park Service and City of Roswell.

The paddle party launched from Garrard Landing Park in Roswell with 331 paddlers in 255 boats racing nearly eight miles downstream to Riverside Park where winners received awards in more than two dozen categories and enjoyed SweetWater brews.

After the race, festival-goers from all over Metro Atlanta joined the paddlers to enjoy live music from Rock U Kids and Dead 27s, plus an array of artisan and environmentally-



focused exhibitors. Proceeds from the event will help CRK achieve its mission of a drinkable, swimmable and fishable river.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Waterkeeper Alliance Splash Series Event presented nationally by Toyota

LOCAL PRESENTING SPONSORS: 97.1 The River, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Family 2 Family

RIVER BENEFACTOR: Clear Channel Outdoor, UPS

RIVER ADVOCATE: 755 Restaurant Corp., Another Broken Egg, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, First Baptist Roswell, Nantahala Outdoor Center, PNC, TEC – The Erosion Company, Weed Man Lawn Care

RIVER CONSERVATOR: Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, Batdorf & Bronson Coffee Roasters, Big Daddy DJ, Classic Tents & Events, The Coca-Cola Company, Kroger, Mitigation Management, Mountain High Outfitters, North River Tavern, R2T Inc., Shane’s Rib Shack, SweetWater Brewing Company, Tom Wilson Photography, ZWJ Investment Counsel

WEST POINT CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

Many thanks to the 110 paddlers who took part in the Chattahoochee Valley River Revival on May 6! We had a great time on and off the water, as the paddle gave way to a festive evening at the Downtown River Park in West Point, Georgia.

Along with the good food, fun activities provided by our partners and music that had people dancing, the event also provided us with a great opportunity to raise awareness of the river. We also highlighted

the importance of water stewardship and CRK’s outreach programs, such as the West Point Lake Floating Classroom and NWW program.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

Interface, West Point Development Authority, The Indigo Group at Morgan Stanley, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Charter Bank, Southwire, Point University, Hutchinson Traylor and Renasant Bank.



WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL A BIG HIT!

Our third annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival held in Gainesville was an inspiring event. The festival is a natural extension of CRK’s work to engage and encourage people to act on behalf of the environment.

Along with presenting 15 motivational films, we hosted ten nonprofit partners at the Environmental Expo. Guests enjoyed SweetWater beer and won coveted raffle and spinning wheel prizes!

New this year was a Children’s Film Festival and interactive fair to inspire young minds. Together we raised \$11,000 to support the Headwaters’ NWW program.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Brenau University, David and Gail Chester, Family 2 Family WSB-TV, Mincey Marble

RIVER STEWARD: Outside World Outfitters

RIVER PATRON: University of North Georgia, IESA (Institute for Environmental Spatial Analysis)