

## Gainesville Poultry Plant Pollutes Lake Lanier Tributary

In 2009, a Gainesville resident called Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) to report more than 100 dead fish floating in Flat Creek. The stream flows six miles through city neighborhoods, near schools and churches before entering Lake Lanier, which provides drinking water for 4 million people and is visited by 7.5 million people annually.

CRK reported the incident to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which investigated and found “gray colored sludge, floating debris and putrescent foam” entering Flat Creek below the outfalls of Pilgrim’s Pride, the second-largest chicken producer in the world. While the state concluded that the cause of the fish kill was unknown, EPD did issue a notice of violation to the company for the water quality violations.

### Long term monitoring begins

Concerned that stormwater polluted with bacteria from chicken plants might be contaminating the creek, CRK initiated a long-term monitoring program. In subsequent months that turned into years, staff members regularly hitched up their waders and took to the water during rain events to assess stream health and attempt to find the sources of pollution. Staff also combed through state files for industrial facilities on Flat Creek.

Our diligence finally paid off when tests conducted on samples collected at several storm drains revealed bacteria levels that were **more than 10,000 times** the level recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Federal and state laws require that industrial facilities like Pilgrim’s Pride obtain a permit to release stormwater. Yet, year after year, Pilgrim’s Pride failed to meet pollution elimination goals or properly test stormwater. Responsible for permit oversight, the EPD issued notices of violation, but did not force the facility to stop polluting the creek.



In an effort to address the problems, CRK sent a letter to Pilgrim’s Pride in 2012, outlining our concerns and asking for a meeting to discuss the situation. There was no response.

### EPA investigation initiated

Shortly after, EPA invited CRK to present information and water quality data on priority cases. The federal agency was particularly concerned about Flat Creek and initiated its own investigation, which included an unannounced plant inspection in August 2014.

EPA’s inspection report, issued in January, documents numerous permit violations at the Pilgrim’s Pride facility. The report describes trucks with thousands of chickens in cages being sprayed with water that mingles with chicken feces and then drains directly into Flat Creek. Feathers, bloody water, and maggots litter the pavement and clog pipes meant to convey only rainwater from the site to the creek. Photos show open dumpsters littered with chicken parts and more feathers.

**Next steps:** Pilgrim’s Pride must meet with EPA to develop a plan to address the violations and stop the pollution; a fine is also likely. CRK will continue to monitor the enforcement action and water quality in Flat Creek. We are encouraged

that this case will set the example for other food-processing facilities to invest in proper stormwater controls that keep our waterways clean.



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## STAFF

Tammy Bates  
Outings Manager

Juliet Cohen  
Executive Director

Laura Hartt  
Water Policy Director

Duncan Hughes  
Headwaters Outreach Director

Bonnie Jackson  
Operations Manager

Henry Jacobs  
Middle Chattahoochee Outreach Manager

Kevin Jeselnik  
Staff Attorney

Keena S. Johnson  
Development Associate

Becca Klein  
Development Director

Celia Lismore  
Communications Director

Michael Meyer  
Watershed Protection Specialist

Jessica Sterling  
Watershed Protection Specialist

Jason Ulseth  
Riverkeeper

Christina York  
Database Manager

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

### ATLANTA OFFICE

3 Puritan Mill  
916 Joseph Lowery Blvd.  
Atlanta, GA 30318  
404-352-9828

### GAINESVILLE OFFICE

615 F Oak Street  
Suite 1000  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
770-531-1064

### LAGRANGE OFFICE

35 Lafayette Square  
LaGrange GA 30240  
706-882-3701

www.chattahoochee.org  
www.getthedirtout.org

# Reflections

## A Tale of Two Rivers

The Chattahoochee River in metro Atlanta's backyard has long been a "Tale of Two Rivers." The northern segment, a 48-mile stretch of river within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, flows from Buford Dam to the river's confluence with Peachtree Creek in north Atlanta. This section of the river has enjoyed better water quality than the river downstream as it's gradually fed from the cool, deep waters of Lake Lanier. Each year, more than three million people flock to the many parks, walking trails and boat launching areas along this stretch of the river.



The river downstream of Peachtree Creek long told a different story. For decades it was plagued by sewage spills and contaminated stormwater that flowed into the river during heavy rainfalls. You won't find many parks or public access points in this river section — and that's no accident. Historically, government agencies did not want people near this stretch of river because its water often was unsafe.

## A Different Story Today

During the past 20 years, much has been done to revive the river below Peachtree Creek. Since CRK's

lawsuit against the City of Atlanta in the late 1990s, the city has invested nearly \$2 billion in its stormwater and sewer infrastructure and sewage spills have decreased in volume by 99 percent. Stormwater management controls have improved, and while still not where they need to be, are doing a better job of reducing the volume of pollutants running into the river.

Bacteria levels in the river below the city, once astronomically high, have been reduced to much more acceptable levels. Slowly, we have turned the corner toward a tale of one river. The river immediately below Atlanta is now catching the eye of real estate developers and park builders alike, a testament to the hard work and dedication of many people over the years to restore the Chattahoochee basin.

While we celebrate the many successes we've had over the years, much work remains. Our population continues to grow, placing ever-growing strain on our river.

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper will continue to be the tireless voice for our beautiful river and will not stand by when she is threatened. We will meet each challenge head on and we will work to ensure a clean river for our families, businesses, and for the generations to come.

*JASON ULSETH*  
Riverkeeper

# Watershed Moment

Before my father passed away from cancer, he told me that he wanted his final resting place to be on a hill overlooking the Chattahoochee River. This picture is from the river looking up at Langdale Cemetery on an early winter morning with the sun peeking through the trees near the hill where he's buried. He instilled a love of the river in me and whenever I'm on this beautiful stretch of the Chattahoochee, I feel like he is looking down on me with pride... and maybe helping me catch a fish or two.

— Jody Simms, Valley, Alabama



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](mailto:clismore@chattahoochee.org).

# On Patrol

For further details on CRK's investigations and enforcement actions, go to [www.chattahoochee.org/on-patrol](http://www.chattahoochee.org/on-patrol).

## BROKEN SEWER LINE IMPACTS LAKE LANIER TRIBUTARY

In late 2014, bacteria levels almost 2,000 times EPA's recommended level for recreational waters were detected in **Mud Creek** by volunteers from the **University of North Georgia (UNG)**. These data were particularly concerning as the high numbers were not related to rain events, when surface runoff generally causes bacteria numbers to increase.

As a tributary to Lake Lanier, a source of recreation for millions of people each year and drinking water for 4 million Georgians, the public health risk posed by Mud Creek's high bacteria count was real.

In January, CRK staff conducted a follow-up investigation of the Hall County creek, which revealed a broken sewer line adjacent to the creek. The line was apparently damaged during routine utility easement maintenance. Raw sewage was constantly flowing into Mud Creek and subsequently into Lake Lanier at an estimated rate of 7,200 gallons per day.

The spill was reported to the **City of Flowery Branch**, which quickly responded to make the necessary repairs. The long-term solution involved boring a small tunnel under the road for a new sewer line and casing, which proved costly but necessary.

Samples collected and analyzed by CRK following the repair indicate that bacteria levels returned to a range safe for recreational uses. Thanks a million to UNG volunteers for discovering and stopping this spill! Also, a round of applause for the City of Flowery Branch — they responded quickly and made the necessary repairs in a timely manner.

Events like these highlight the importance of our Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) program. Without NWW, routine monitoring wouldn't occur on many of our creeks and streams, and sewer spills like this would go undetected for long periods of time.

For more information about the headwaters region and/or this spill in particular, contact Duncan Hughes at [dhughes@chattahoochee.org](mailto:dhughes@chattahoochee.org).



Mud Creek originates in Flowery Branch, GA and flows directly into Lake Lanier.

## Volunteers Help Locate Sandy Creek Spill

Thanks to our **Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW)** volunteers, CRK was able to locate a sewer spill in west Atlanta's **Sandy Creek**. Samples taken by our upstream team, Gwen Smith and Lisa Watson, indicated low bacteria levels; however, samples taken downstream by Alan Toney showed counts 85 times the EPA-recommended E.coli level. Clearly, the source of this problem lay between the two sites. A stream walk led our trackers to the culprit — an overflowing manhole that was dumping sewage into a Sandy Creek tributary. The City of Atlanta cleared the sewer line, which was clogged with fats, oils, greases ("FOGs") and "flushable" wipes. Tell your friends: most flushable wipes do not break down in the sewer system! Thankfully, water quality in Sandy Creek is now returning to normal.

Check out the data online at [www.chattahoochee.org/nww/](http://www.chattahoochee.org/nww/).

## River Buffer Violations in South Fulton

After receiving a tip on our Citizen HOTLINE about buffer encroachments along the river in south Fulton County, CRK staff members were joined by a Fulton County inspector on our patrol boat to investigate the potential violations. During the **10-mile patrol trip**, the crew discovered two illegal encroachments into the river's buffer with significant damage to the riverbank caused by heavy machinery. The location of each site was flagged by GPS and upon returning to land, the property owners were identified by the county. Fulton County sent a notice of violation to each landowner, requiring them to develop and implement full restoration plans to remediate these impacted river sections.

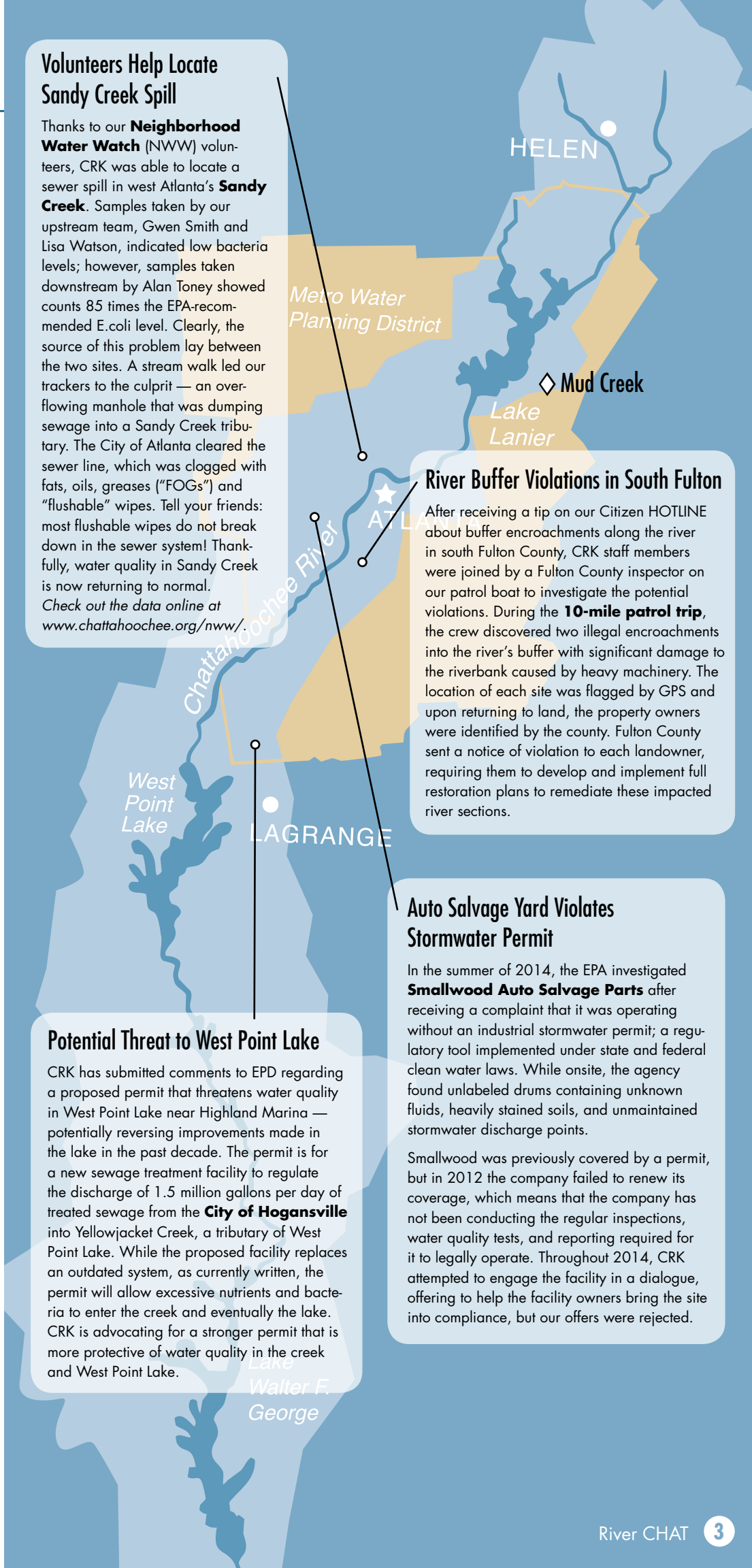
## Auto Salvage Yard Violates Stormwater Permit

In the summer of 2014, the EPA investigated **Smallwood Auto Salvage Parts** after receiving a complaint that it was operating without an industrial stormwater permit; a regulatory tool implemented under state and federal clean water laws. While onsite, the agency found unlabeled drums containing unknown fluids, heavily stained soils, and unmaintained stormwater discharge points.

Smallwood was previously covered by a permit, but in 2012 the company failed to renew its coverage, which means that the company has not been conducting the regular inspections, water quality tests, and reporting required for it to legally operate. Throughout 2014, CRK attempted to engage the facility in a dialogue, offering to help the facility owners bring the site into compliance, but our offers were rejected.

## Potential Threat to West Point Lake

CRK has submitted comments to EPD regarding a proposed permit that threatens water quality in West Point Lake near Highland Marina — potentially reversing improvements made in the lake in the past decade. The permit is for a new sewage treatment facility to regulate the discharge of 1.5 million gallons per day of treated sewage from the **City of Hogansville** into Yellowjacket Creek, a tributary of West Point Lake. While the proposed facility replaces an outdated system, as currently written, the permit will allow excessive nutrients and bacteria to enter the creek and eventually the lake. CRK is advocating for a stronger permit that is more protective of water quality in the creek and West Point Lake.





# River Stewardship

## AWARD WINNING GUIDE ENRICHES CHATTAHOOCHEE JOURNEYS

**J**oe Cook's *Chattahoochee River User's Guide* (UGA Press 2014, part of Georgia River Network's Guidebooks series) is a must-have for any river rover.

The book is jam-packed with all a navigator needs to know — from safety and boating etiquette to popular fishing destinations and awe-inspiring sights. Cook covers the entire length of the river, and breaks it into 29 chapters, each covering a distance that can be paddled in a single day.

The introduction to each section indicates the section length, difficulty (class), time on the water, directions, launch and take-out descriptions, and location of associated U.S. Geological Survey stream gauges to monitor flow conditions. The detailed maps include points of interest, rapids, campgrounds, and access points.

The reader's journey begins at Chattahoochee Spring near Jack's Knob in Union County and gracefully meanders 435 river miles to just below the Jim Woodruff lock and dam, where the Chattahoochee and Flint merge in Lake Seminole to become the Apalachicola River.

Printed on 5.5-inch by 8.5-inch water-proof paper, the book is the ideal stow-away for a journey on the river. However, you'll also want to set some time aside for land-based reading — the guide is filled with fun facts and captivating anecdotes about the river's culture and history. The stunning photographs highlight the natural beauty of the river while illustrating the threats and challenges we face in protecting it — these images alone will have you eager to hit the water.

Towards the end of the Guide, there are lists and photographs of common animal and plant species that occur along Georgia rivers, as well as aquatic species of interest that occur in the Chattahoochee. And don't miss the final section on protecting the river, which includes CRK and other organizations working to promote conservation and protection of the river's watershed.

A great addition to any outdoorsman/woman's bookshelf, its stories will make anyone want to get their feet wet. Enjoy the read and get out on the water! *The guide can be purchased from UGA Press at [www.ugapress.org](http://www.ugapress.org) or on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).*



*According to Cook, the Palisades — a gorgeous stretch located between Morgan Falls Dam and Paces Mill — is arguably the most heavily traveled section.*

## GRANDPA HOOCHEE MAKES THE HEADWATERS PROUD

**W**hen those who know him think of **Gary Gaines**, the Chattahoochee River invariably comes to mind. A dedicated advocate for the river for 30 years, Gaines' grandkids have taken to calling him "Hooch" instead of Grandpa. Gary has served on the CRK Board of Directors since 1998, and is the only current Board member representing the Headwaters region — the 1,000-square mile upper Chattahoochee watershed that drains into Lake Lanier.

He first became involved with CRK in 1994 when he was president of the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club (LCKC). The group was busy preparing for the 1996 Olympics' flatwater canoe and kayak race held in Gainesville.

"Our first club meeting speaker was Sally Bethea of a new environmental organization in Atlanta," remembers Gaines. "For the next few years we jointly did river cleanups and also a couple of 43-mile marathon paddle races from Helen to Atlanta."



*Gary Gaines has been a CRK board member since 1998.*

Gary grew up in Gainesville, and still lives there with his wife Tracy. He spends as much time as he can at his cabin on the Chattahoochee in White County, where he also owns the North Georgia Label business. Gary's passion for the river also led him to become an instrumental piece in the development of the Upper Chattahoochee River Water Trail.

"The LCKC started working on the water trail in the mid-1990s by printing brochures and a map of the trail. CRK took the project on in about 2007," recalls Gaines, who also works with the Friends of Gainesville Parks to extend the trail to city parks on Lake Lanier. "Since then, CRK has worked with partners to promote the trail, provide safe public access points, and advocate for conservation and protection of river."

"I think CRK is the top environmental organization in the state," says Gaines. "And I hope more of our members will enjoy time on the river." *For information on the Upper Chattahoochee River Water Trail visit [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org).*

# CITIZEN SCIENTISTS AT WORK ON PROCTOR CREEK

On a crisp Saturday morning last November, 70 volunteers left their cozy beds behind and ventured out to the banks of Proctor Creek to be scientists for a day. Their task? Collecting water samples up and down a large segment of the west Atlanta creek.

It was the first Proctor Creek River Rendezvous, a one-day stream sampling event where citizen scientists document a day in the life of a watershed. We couldn't have done it without our co-hosts, **West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA)** and the **U.S. EPA**, which funded the event with an "Urban Waters Small Grant," to expand monitoring and outreach in the Proctor Creek watershed.



70 volunteers collected water samples on Proctor Creek last November

## A day in the Proctor Creek Watershed

The volunteers, composed of members of the community, local universities and government agencies, met for a brief CRK-lead training in water quality sampling techniques. Then, as newly-established "citizen scientists," they traveled to 40 locations along the Proctor Creek watershed, armed with information about each site and sampling equipment.

After collecting water samples, volunteers recorded general observations about the stream at each site. Volunteers and CRK staff tested each sample for bacteria to assess stream health.

## Park Bench Clogs Sewer

After the event, CRK staff followed up on two sites with bacteria levels that were more than 100 times

the level recommended by EPA. Both were in areas that had not been sampled for bacteria prior to River Rendezvous.

We tracked the high bacteria levels found in one tributary that enters Proctor Creek near Burbank Drive to a clogged sewer line spewing raw sewage into the stream. City of

Atlanta crews were on the scene immediately and attributed the sewer spill to a park bench clogging a sewer manhole.

Many thanks also to the volunteers and officials from the **City of Atlanta** and **Georgia Adopt-A-Stream** for making River Rendezvous an outstanding success.

# NEW YEAR, NEW FACES

The arrival of the New Year brought two new and friendly faces to CRK's Atlanta office. **Kevin Jeselnik** came on board last December as staff attorney. And **Celia Lismore** joined us in February as our new communications director.

Kevin supports CRK's Executive Director Juliet Cohen and Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth in the coordination and implementation of our water quality programs. He joined us from an Atlanta-based law firm where he represented individuals and nonprofit organizations on environmental cases similar to those tackled by CRK.

He is excited to be a part of CRK and explore ways that the law can afford greater protection to the Chattahoochee watershed. Kevin and his wife, Brianne, live in Kirkwood and spend an inordinate amount of time on local restaurant patios. On weekends, they enjoy exploring the Chattahoochee and their favorite spots along Sweetwater Creek with their dog Scout.



l to r: Kevin Jeselnik and Celia Lismore

Celia, an Atlanta native, joined CRK from the South Fork Conservancy (SFC), a sister organization restoring the South Fork of Peachtree Creek, a tributary to the Chattahoochee. Her lifelong passion for the environment made her an early supporter of CRK; she discovered us while writing an article about Atlanta's sewage issues for

Georgia State University, where she received her undergraduate degree.

After working on environmental issues in India and Kenya, Celia earned her MSc in Ecological Economics from the University of Edinburgh and began her environmental career upon her return to Atlanta as the Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator for SFC. Celia is thrilled to be a part of the CRK team, and looks forward to enhancing the strategy and reach of our communications efforts. You can contact Kevin at [kjeselnik@chattahoochee.org](mailto:kjeselnik@chattahoochee.org) and Celia at [clismore@chattahoochee.org](mailto:clismore@chattahoochee.org).

# River Matters

For information on these and other river-related events, visit [www.chattahoochee.org/calendar](http://www.chattahoochee.org/calendar).

March 21

**Water Drop Dash 5K**

Chattahoochee Nature Center

March 22

**World Water Day**

March 28

**Proctor Creek Walk**

Proctor Creek

March 30

**AVEDA Catwalk for Water**

Atlanta, GA

April 11

**5th Annual Sweep the Hooch Cleanup**

April 13

**AVEDA Global Cut-A-Thon & Beyond**

April 17 - 19

**420 Fest**

Centennial Olympic Park

April 22

**Earth Day**

May 1

**2nd Annual Art of Water**

Cochran Gallery in LaGrange, GA

May 2 - 3

**Headwaters Water Trail Camp and Paddle Trip**

May 14

**River Revival**

Terminal West, West Midtown

May 30

**Wild & Scenic Film Festival**

Brenau University's Downtown Center in Gainesville, GA

June 6

**Clean the Race Course**

Garrard Landing Park in Roswell, GA

June 13

**13th Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival**

Garrard Landing Park and Riverside Park in Roswell, GA



# CRK EVALUATES ATLANTA'S SEWER PERMIT

In December 2014, EPD released the long-awaited draft permit for the City of Atlanta's combined sewer system (CSS). The city has been operating under an administrative extension since its permit expired in 2010. CRK and other groups have long advocated for a new permit that is clearly enforceable and protective of water quality.

The CSS permit regulates discharges of combined flows from sanitary sewer and stormwater in about 9% of the city that eventually reaches the Chattahoochee. In the late 1990s, the CSS was overflowing approximately sixty times per year at multiple locations and the river and communities downstream of Atlanta suffered from high bacteria levels and other pollution problems.

In 1995, CRK brought a lawsuit against the city, which resulted in a consent decree and \$780 million in improvements to the CSS. All of the major capital projects for these improvements were completed at the end of 2008.



*Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth comments on the new draft permit at EPD's public hearing in early February 2015.*

Since the completion of the sewer upgrades, the city has documented only five overflows of the CSS where untreated sewer and stormwater flowed into the river. We have also seen significant improvement in the health of our waterways as aquatic life is visibly abundant downstream from the city's outfalls.

The issuance of an updated permit is a significant step in this 20-year effort to improve the quality of water from the city's CSS flowing into the river.

In February, Riverkeeper Jason Ulseth spoke to this issue at EPD's public hearing, and with the assistance of the **Southern Environmental Law Center** and experts, we also submitted a detailed comment letter outlining our questions and concerns about the draft permit.

CRK will continue our efforts to ensure that the best possible permit is issued, and, as always, the organization will continue to monitor the water quality of our river and tributaries once the new permit is put into effect.

# SUPREME COURT WADES IN TO WATER WAR

After decades of interstate conflict over Lake Lanier operations, the U.S. Supreme Court has joined the fray. On November 3, 2014, the Court granted Florida's request for appointment of a "special master" to develop a water sharing agreement for the **Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) River Basin**.

Florida is seeking relief for Apalachicola Bay, a major oyster fishery on the brink of collapse due to higher salt concentrations allegedly stemming in part from Georgia's upstream water consumption. However, Lake Lanier is the major source of drinking water for metro Atlanta, supplying nearly four million people.

On November 19 of last year, the Court appointed Ralph Lancaster, Jr. of Maine as Special Master; Lancaster quickly set an aggressive timetable for resolving the conflict. Florida and Georgia have until mid-July to compile information relevant to the case and until Thanksgiving to collect witness testimony. By early 2016, the parties should file their final motions, with Florida likely seeking judgment in its favor or Georgia seeking dismissal of the case. Alabama has yet to weigh in on this lawsuit.

Complicating matters further, the Army Corps of Engineers is updating the manual guiding operations for Lanier and other federal projects in the ACF Basin. This will generate new information that the Court will consider as it determines an equitable water sharing agreement.

Another wrinkle lies in the efforts of the **ACF Stakeholders** ([www.acfstakeholders.org](http://www.acfstakeholders.org)), formed more than five years ago to develop a sustainable water management plan for the basin. As a member of the governing board, CRK has worked with diverse stakeholders across all sectors in all three states to assess current conditions in the ACF Basin while developing recommendations for improving resource management in an equitable manner. Although deemed proprietary until completed, the final ACF Stakeholders plan also may provide useful information to the Special Master.



To learn more about what CRK is doing to resolve the tri-state water conflict, visit <http://chattahoochee.org/our-work/tri-state-water-conflict/crks-role/>.



# TROUP COUNTY SEWAGE PLANT IDENTIFIED AS HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

**P**ilot Travel Centers (Pilot) has spent several hundred thousand dollars to remove hazardous substances from an abandoned sludge pond at its sewage treatment plant off Whitesville Road in Troup County. This was not enough, however, to keep the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) from listing the site on their Hazardous Site Inventory due to concerns about remaining soil and groundwater contamination.

As of December 2014, the site has been entered into EPD's Voluntary Remediation Program, which will require Pilot to further investigate and determine the extent of environmental contamination and conduct a timely cleanup.

## *Illegal dumping in pond, citations*

A year ago, then-County Commission Chair Ricky Wolfe contacted CRK's outreach office in LaGrange to report the concerns of local citizens who had to deal with an unbearable smell — a combination of sewage and petroleum odors — when passing by the sewage plant.



CRK staff reviewed state files that show contaminated pond water has entered **Long Cane Creek**, a meandering 20-mile tributary that originates near Mountville and flows south through Troup County to meet the Chattahoochee a few miles below West Point Dam. The facility had

numerous spills of raw sewage due to equipment failures and inadequate maintenance.

Built in 1973, and operated by Pilot since 2011, this small treatment plant serves approximately ten businesses, including truck stops, fast-food restaurants and motels.



A permit issued by EPD allows treated sewage from the plant to be discharged into Long Cane Creek. For the past three years, CRK and local volunteers from the **LaGrange Sierra Club** have conducted monthly monitoring at two sites along the stream to determine impacts from Pilot's wastewater discharge.

According to an EPD report issued in May 2014, samples from the pond sludge and groundwater revealed above-average chemicals indicative of petroleum contamination. Also found were 1,4 Dioxane, a carcinogen found in many shampoos and detergents, and analine, another carcinogen often found in industrial chemicals. Illegal dumping in the pond may have resulted in the contamination.

## *Sewage plant to be de-commissioned*

Meanwhile, Pilot applied for the renewal of its permit to discharge into Long Cane Creek in 2014. CRK and county officials submitted comments, urging EPD to renew the permit with a condition that the businesses using the malfunctioning plant must connect to the LaGrange sewer system, when it becomes available.

EPD responded to these comments by amending the draft permit with provisions that should lead to the closure of the failing facility in the future. This outcome is a great example of the positive results that can occur when a nonprofit organization, local government officials and a state agency work together to protect our waterways.





# SAVE THE DATES

Looking for some spring fun? Mark your calendars and join us at one of our signature events! CRK has something for everyone to enjoy this season.

We kick off Earth Month in April with **Sweep the Hooch**. The multi-site cleanup will take place on April 11, where CRK and partners **Trout Unlimited** and the **National Park Service** will tackle more than 38 sites with the help of walking, wading and paddling volunteers. But the fun doesn't stop there!

May brings our river-inspired art and music events — **Art of Water, River Revival**, and the **Patagonia Wild & Scenic Film Festival**. CRK will host Art of Water on May 1 in historic downtown LaGrange. Attendees will be able to view river-related works of art at the Cochran Gallery, with the option to bid on selected artwork, and enjoy live music and screenings of locally produced short films in Lafayette Square.

Back by popular demand, we will host our River Revival on May 14 at Terminal West. Continuing with the New Orleans Jazz Fest theme, the



*Last year, 580 volunteers pulled more than 7 tons of litter from the river and its tributaries.*



*This year River Revival will bring the jazzy sounds and soulful flavor of New Orleans to Atlanta. It sold out last year so make sure you reserve your ticket now at [www.terminalwest.com](http://www.terminalwest.com).*

evening will once again be filled with the sounds of Cajun, jazz, funk and blues at Midtown's trendiest music venue. Grammy-nominated songwriter and guitarist Tab Benoit headlines the event with support from other great musical talents.

The highly missed Patagonia Wild & Scenic Film Festival will return this year at a new venue. Join us in Gainesville on May 30 to view a number of films dedicated to the natural world and adventure.

We round out the season with our 13th Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival. A favorite event among our members and river enthusiasts, the race and festival will be held on

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**If you prefer to receive RiverCHAT electronically, contact Christina York at [cyork@chattahoochee.org](mailto:cyork@chattahoochee.org).**

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June 13 in Roswell. Attendees can choose to take part in the 8-mile river race or attend the free, day-long music festival.

Check out [www.chattahoochee.org](http://www.chattahoochee.org) for more information about these events and other outings.



*Even if you don't participate in the race, make sure you come with your friends and family to the FREE day-long music festival.*