



# RIVERCHAT

Winter 2019 A publication of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK)

## \$2.1 BILLION IN CLEAN WATER BENEFITS FOR OUR RIVER

**Twenty-five years ago, Atlanta's Turner Foundation provided a seed grant of \$50,000 to a brand-new, nonprofit organization, now called Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK).**

Our mission—to restore and protect the Chattahoochee River: a daunting task given the filthy condition of the waterway below the city of Atlanta, at that time, and the massive volume of polluted stormwater that flowed, uncontrolled, into the river after every rainstorm.

In the intervening years, you and thousands of donors like you invested \$28 million in CRK, understanding that it would take significant financial and volunteer resources to accomplish our goals. In honor of CRK's 25th anniversary, we compiled a record of accomplishments and found that our actions resulted in the expenditure of more than \$2.1 billion by government agencies, developers, industries and landowners to help restore the river, its lakes and tributaries.

Today, we are extremely proud to announce that every single dollar contributed has resulted in at least \$75 in measurable benefits to the people, communities and wildlife in the Chattahoochee River watershed. With the leadership of our board of directors and staff—and the help of thousands of members and volunteers—we have collectively transformed our most critical resource: the lifeblood of the region and source of drinking water for more than five million people.

CRK's earliest, and likely most-recognized initiative, was our 1995 lawsuit against the City of Atlanta to correct its failing sewer and stormwater systems which regularly

dumped raw sewage into the river and the streams flowing through neighborhoods. Comparing water quality data from the 1990s to the samples we collect today, we can conclude that, following the major investment by the city to overhaul its storm and sewer infrastructure, bacteria levels in the Chattahoochee downstream of Atlanta are 80% lower than they were three decades ago. Former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin has said that those investments yielded “nearly \$18 billion” in new public and private investment in the city.

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- Juliet Cohen, Executive Director,  
Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

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An entire region has taken notice of these clean water benefits and the Chattahoochee is viewed in a new light—as an amenity rather than a drainage ditch for the city's waste. Local and state governments are opening new riverside parks; community groups are collaborating to develop a master

plan for new parks, hiking trails, boat ramps and bicycle paths; and developers are building live-work-play communities along the once-polluted river.

While much progress has been made, the greatest threat to the Chattahoochee River system today is stormwater runoff from construction sites, industries, roads and other impervious surfaces. In our role as the environmental lead in state-convened negotiations, we have used our field experience from 1200 site investigations to strengthen and clarify environmental regulations. As one example, the largest land-disturber in the state—the Georgia DOT—must now reduce the substantial impacts from runoff associated with its constructed roads. In addition to significant policy improvements, CRK's actions to date have resulted in the investment of more than \$27 million in site-specific improvements to stop polluted runoff from entering nearby streams.

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**This spring, we will publish a report outlining 25 years of accomplishments. Join us in celebrating our Silver Anniversary! At [chattahoochee.org](http://chattahoochee.org), learn about the Relay Down the Hooch, Youth Summit, and 25th Anniversary Patron Dinner. Importantly, thank you for supporting us in this journey to protect and preserve our Chattahoochee River.**

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**Thank you for supporting us in this journey to protect and preserve our Chattahoochee River.**



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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 LOOKING BACK ON THE PAST 25 YEARS

When Chattahoochee Riverkeeper was founded in 1994 by Rutherford and Laura Seydel, I was a freshman in high school. Sally Bethea was just taking the reins as our first Riverkeeper as I was navigating the bullies and cliques of a mid-90’s high school. Sally wasted no time hitting the headlines and I remember seeing news about a pollution lawsuit against the City of Atlanta the following year. I followed the story with interest as I loved to fish on the Hooch, but really had no idea just how big of a deal the lawsuit was.

Over the next few years, the lawsuit and resultant settlement churned on and I transitioned to life at the University of Georgia to study Environmental Health Science. I followed Sally’s work from afar and even took a trip on CRK’s floating classroom boat on Lake Lanier with my UGA hydrology class. After graduation, CRK came up on my radar more and more as I climbed up the ranks in state government. In 2007, I found myself sitting across from Sally in a job interview for CRK’s Watershed Protection Specialist position.

I have now been on staff for almost half of the organization’s 25 year history. I wasn’t there for the early success of the famous Atlanta suit, but I have been a part of some



extraordinary river victories and have seen the transformation of the Chattahoochee River downstream of Atlanta. The Chattahoochee is now cleaner than it has been in decades and looking back on CRK’s incredible work over the past 25 years it is truly inspiring. I am proud to be a member of this unbelievable team, and I am excited for the next 25 years as we welcome our future river protection guardians.

*JASON ULSETH*  
**Jason Ulseth, RIVERKEEPER**



PEGGY AMEND  
*CRK volunteer and avid kayaker*

“The Chattahoochee gives me a place to find peace and serenity in an otherwise crazy world.”

Peggy Amend first started volunteering for CRK at the 2008 Back to the Chatt River Race and Festival. Since then she hasn’t stopped. From managing the timing for the River Race each year and picking up trash at cleanups, to helping guests at the annual Patron Dinner, Peggy has been a committed volunteer for 10 years! These days she is an avid kayaker, too, hitting the river whenever she can. What drives her? “The Chattahoochee gives me a place to find peace and serenity in an otherwise crazy world.”



# ON PATROL WITH CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

## STEEL WIRE MANUFACTURER OUT OF COMPLIANCE

CRK discovered that Koswire, a steel wire manufacturer located on Flowery Branch upstream from Lake Lanier, is not following clean stormwater laws. During a site investigation, we found a number of alarming characteristics, including bright blue staining on the surfaces adjacent to Koswire's building. The release of heavy metals such as zinc, lead, arsenic and copper is a concern. After several attempts to communicate with Koswire went ignored, we filed a letter of intent to sue within 60 days.

## DOG RIVER RESERVOIR EXPANSION RAISES QUESTIONS

Douglas County seeks to significantly expand an existing water supply reservoir to address recurring dry and/or low flow conditions. Without improvements, problems within the reservoir would be exacerbated by climate change. CRK's chief concern—and reason for not supporting the project—is the lack of a guaranteed instream flow requirement below the new dam. It's also worth noting this proposal represents more evidence that Georgia communities recognize climate change is real and are adapting.



## SOLAR FIELD IN ALABAMA CAUSES EROSION, SEDIMENTATION PROBLEMS

During a drone flyover of the Chattahoochee River below West Point Dam, we observed a large plume of murky, brown-gray sediment flowing from Osilegee Creek, just upstream of the City of West Point's drinking water intake. Further investigation revealed the source of the sediment to be an 1,100 acre solar field site where we discovered numerous and significant violations of the Clean Water Act. We reported the violations to the U.S. EPA, and have held a series of meetings with the builder and owner in an effort to resolve the problems and begin the process of returning the watershed to health.

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

HELEN

## INDUSTRIAL MOTOR OIL SPILL IN FLAT CREEK

While collecting Neighborhood Water Watch samples, a headwaters intern observed a sheen and odor in Flat Creek, which runs through midtown Gainesville and into Lake Lanier. CRK immediately reported our observations to city employees so they could track the suspected spill. Their actions led them to a motor oil spill from an industrial facility. We are now investigating the facility for illegal dumping through our Protecting Streams and Communities from Industrial Pollution program.

## ILLEGAL LANDFILL IN SOUTH FULTON COUNTY

During the fall, we received several reports that an illegal landfill in south Fulton County had caught fire. The fire burned for weeks and created a public health hazard for nearby residents. We investigated the landfill and found numerous other violations, including erosion control and stormwater runoff problems. The Georgia EPD is leading the enforcement action and has issued an Administrative Order to the property owner, which will require a formal hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to address the problem.

## SEWER SPILL INTO CAMP CREEK

On August 8, Neighborhood Water Watch samples collected with partner Fulton County Public Works indicated sewage contamination at our newly established water monitoring station on Camp Creek at Welcome All Road. E.coli levels tested at more than 300 times the U.S. EPA safe water standard, which prompted CRK tracking teams to work their way up the southwest Atlanta waterway. Ultimately, we found a gushing, grease-clogged manhole along a remote tributary. The City of Atlanta quickly cleared the disrupted sewer line, which allowed the affected waterway to return to baseline conditions.

West Point Lake

COLUMBUS

Lake Walter F. George

Lake Seminole

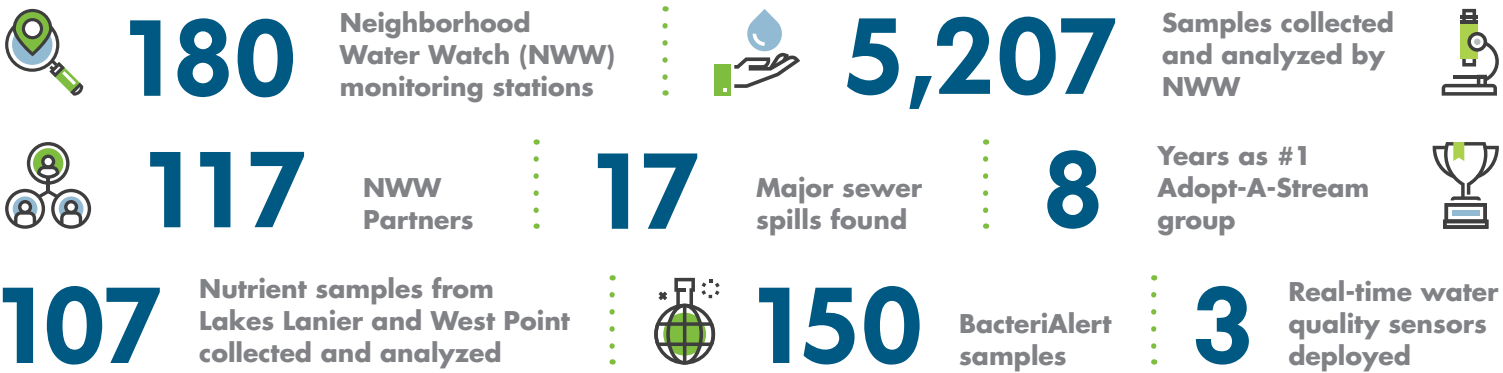
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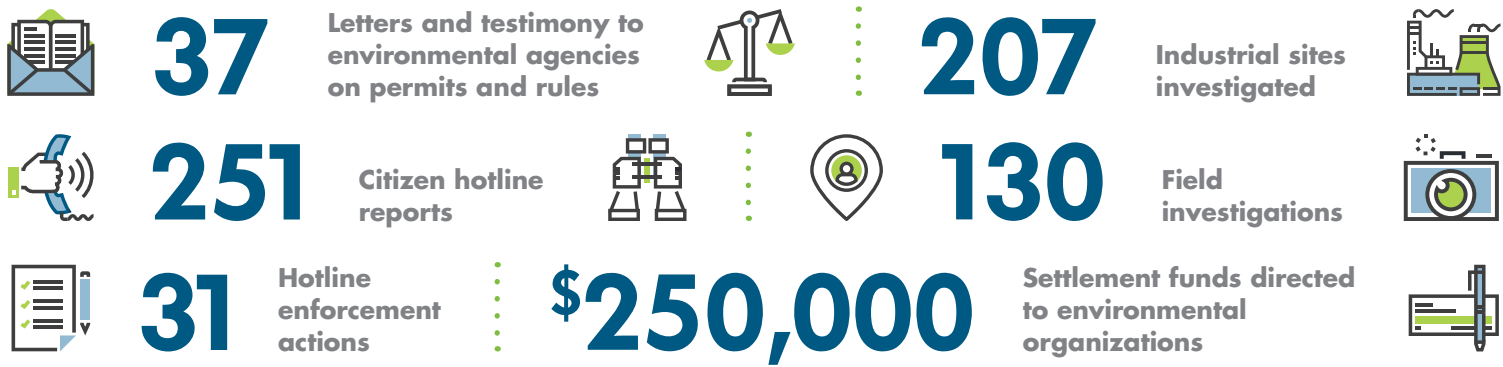
For more information, visit: [chattahoochee.org/our-work/enforcing-environmental-laws](http://chattahoochee.org/our-work/enforcing-environmental-laws)

OUR 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY THE NUMBERS

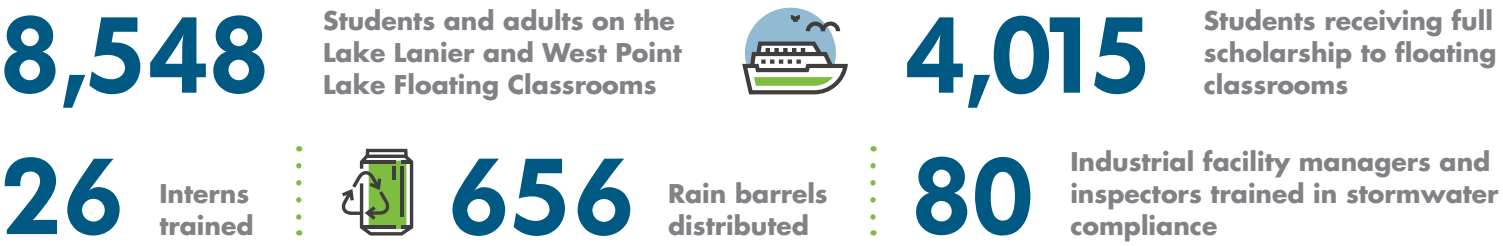
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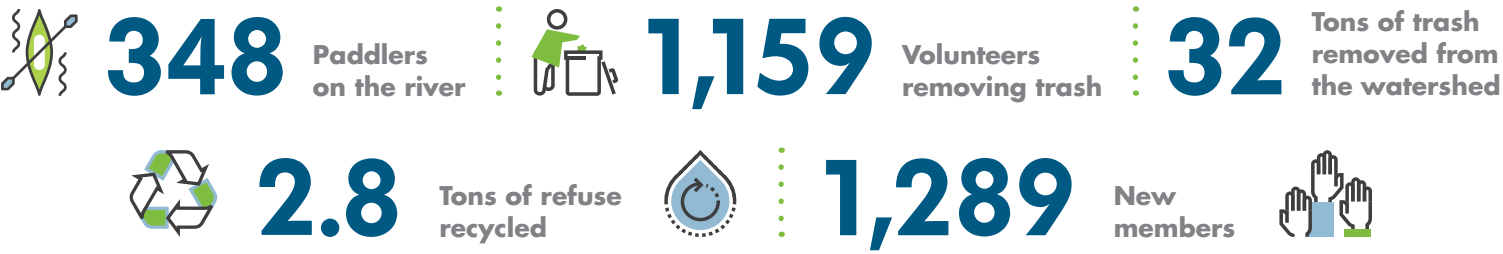
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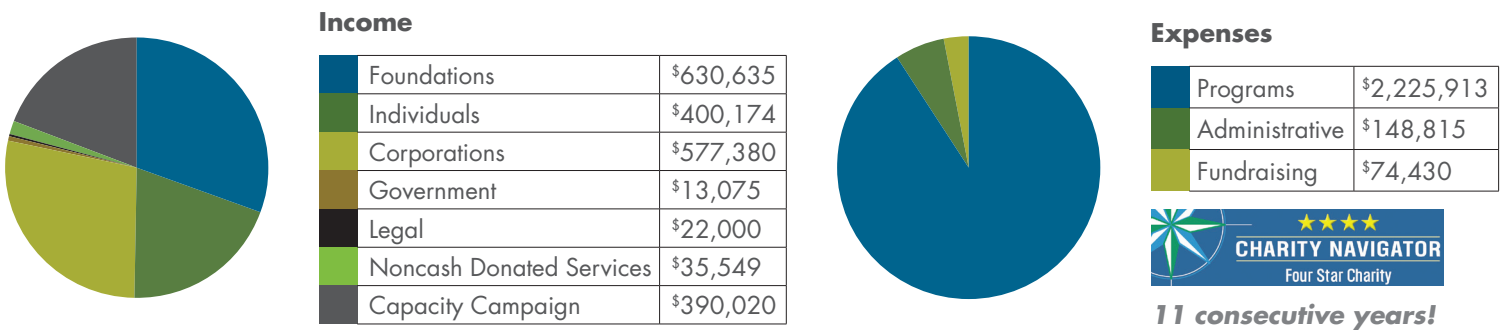
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OUTINGS & TRASH CLEANUPS



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Yum & Ross Arnold	Aldo Calvi	Sam Douglas	Yvette Graves	Paul Hudson	Kevin Kuzon	McLauchlan
Clinton Ashley	Catherine McElroy &	Matthew Downs	Chelsea & David Gray	Connie & David Huelsbeck	Joe Kwolek	Chris R. McShane
Jennie & Kyle Askew	Mr. Ryan Campbell	Brad Dreyer	Tommy Greco	Veronica & Michael	John Lambert	Aaron McWhorter
Bethany & Thomas	Julie Cannady	Sandee Dudenhoeffer	Brett Green	Humphrey	Ewell Lammy	Megan Family
Atkinson	Sandra Cantillon	Mary & Andrew Dugenske	Ron Green	Mimi Seydel & Guy Hunt	Suzy Lamoree	John Menzel
Cameron James Aubuchon	Daniel Caplan	Joseph Duke	Green Queen, Inc.	James Hunter	Laiken Landry	Phyllis Mercer
David Axford	Wendy Cardell	Evan Sam Dumark	Charlotte Greene	Terry Hurley	Deb Lanham	Alan Merrill
Jo Ann Bachman	Abdullah Carew	Tom Dunken	Abbie Greene	Hurndon Family	Christine & Michael	JoAnn & Ken Meyer
Brenda Badura	Kristen & Michael Carey	Whitney Dunlap	Jacqueline & Gary	Bobby Dan Hyatt	Lanzing	Kandy Micheal
Meg & Casey Baer	Michelle & Scott Carey	Gordon Dunn	Greenhood	Charles Hyatt	W. Larry	Susan Middlebrooks
Scott Baermore	Allen Carlson	Stephanie Dunnam	Fletcher Griffin	William Hyland	Debra Laste	Tad Mike
Linwood Baggett	Marolyn Carlson	Ken Durand	Kevin Griffin	Holly & Frank Incorvala	Tom Lavandales	Cindy Miller
Clay Bailey	Truck Carlson	Nancy & Dan Durand	Steve Griffin	Roya Irvani	Judy Lawrence	John Miller
Mimi Baker	Bobby Carmichael	Donald Durant	Griffith Family	Sara Irwin	Lance Layton	Terri Miller
John Ballew	Ann Carolin	Sherri Duron	Larry Griffiths	Cara Isdell Lee	Antonio Lee	Todd Miller
Mike Barfield	Mary Carroll	Peter Dvornek	Lila Grisar	Garrick Isert	Bobby Lee	Jean & Bill Millkey
Neil Barnett	Amy Carruth	Pam Dycus	Tammie Guebert	Michael Isham	Phillip Lee	Kaye & Greg Minchew
Lisa A Barnhart	Deborah & Rod Carter	Kenneth Dye	Nat Gurley	Gaby Ivie	Rebekah Lee	Diane Minick
Vicki & Frank Barron	Dorothy Caruso	Tanner Dykes	Lori Guyton-Harris	Cindy & Rocky Jabaley	Jen Leist	Michael Minton
Stephen Bartos	Mike Caruso	Robert Eanes	Michael Hagearty	Valerie Jackson	Karen Lett	Mindy Mitchell
Ramsay Batter	Carvana, LLC	Elizabeth & Tom Easterly	Sarah Hailey	Victoria Jackson	Amanda Levesque	Kurt Mogensen
Charlene Baxter	Scott Case	Rosalind Edmondson	Melissa Hale	Alicia & Hal Jacobs	Lisa Levine	Roger Moister Jr.
Joanna & Paul Baxter	Margaret & Robert Cash	Edward Jones Investments	Rebecca & Clay Hales	Dale & Rob Jaeger	Michael Levine	Cathy Cortright &
Dustin Beach	Christopher Cassell	William Edwards	Catherine Hall	Holly Stack & Alex Jaffe	TK Lewandowski	Jeff Moore
Chris Beavor	Virginia Causey	London Egeland	Laurene Hamilton	Eric Jamgochian	Eric Lewis	Marcia Moore
Linda Beckstein	MaryAnn Cauthen	Mike Ehmke	Glenda Hamilton	Heather Jenkins	Kayla Engle-Lewis &	Marian Moore
Bee Natural	Mysti & Christopher Cenkn	Brian Eichenseer	Jeffrey Hammen	Ann & Joseph Jennings	Jeffrey Lewis	Matthew Moore
Laury Beesley	Trent Chadwick	Cathy Eilert	Scott Hamming	Jerry Jenson	Michelle Liebergesell	Cristela Moreno
Lacey Behn	Ryan Chamblee	Betsy Elliott	Terry Hampton	Yeou-Rong Jih	April Lipscomb	Jamie Morgan
Ashley & Daniel Bellamy	John Chambliss	Tom Elliott	Betty Hanacek	Becky & John Jinks	William Little	Nick Morin
Nikki Belmonte	Alice & Dennis Champagne	Susan Ellman-Zweig	Rebecca Hancock	Rosa & Herbert Joe	Kevin Littlefield	John Morris
Dan Ben-David	Joe Cheaney	Nancy & Bill Elsea	Todd Hand	Ginny Johansmeier	Katie Lloyd	Joel A. Moscosso
Phillip & Kim Benefield	Charles Cheney	Jessica Sterling &	Kathleen Hanna	Denise Johnson	Stevie Logsdon	Kate McGregor Mosley &
Angela Bennett	Kristina Cherry	Ben Emanuel	Rosie Hanna	Elizabeth Johnson	Sue & Bill Lott Sr.	Larry Mosley
Charles Bennett	Shelley Childers	Carolyn Emery	Dianne & Gene Hansard	Jan & Gary Johnson	Ken Louko	Marley Mountcastle
Erin & Richmond Bernhardt	Dana Chippendale	Howell Epperly	Scott Hansard	Landy & David Johnson	Wanda & Bill Lowe	DJ Mueller
Craig Bertschi	Sue & Tim Chisholm	Benjamin Epstein	Art Hansen	Rick Johnson	Michael Lubin	John Mulloy
Charles Bethea	Jan & Tom Christian	Jody Erbe	Binz & Ryan Hansen	Steve Johnson	Lindy Lucas	Chris Munday
Jordan Bethea	Julie Civitts	Joyce & Jack Etheridge	Chad Hansen	Alynda & Jared Jones	Maria & Gary Ludi	Diana & Gary Murphy
Brenna Biasetti	Tim Clark	Erin & Jeremy Evans	Jennifer Hanson	Bonnie Jones	Herwin Lugo	Nicholas Murphy
Amy Bigler	Janet & Howard Clark	Joshua Everett	Kristina Hanson	Colleen & Barry Jones	Crystal Luke	Trudy Murphy
Celest Bilson	Trysh Clark	Benjamin Everette	Marissa Hanson	David Jones	Tammy Lynch	Jeniffer N Muturi
Sue Binder & Jeff Sacks	Russell Claxon	Natalie Farah	Danna Hardesly	Melissa Thurmond &	Barbara Lynn	Homer Myers
Jackie Binninger	Peter Clemens	Dick Farmer	Blake Harmon	Elliott Jones	Georgann & David Lyons	Janet Schoff &
Charles Bishirjian	Stephanie Van Parys &	Jim Fay	Jeffrey Harper	Gary Jones	Chris Macinnis	Richard Nailling
Ryan Bishoff	Rob Cleveland	Herlon Fayard	Linda Harrah	Joel Jones	James Mack	Kim Ware &
Richard D Bishop	Janet & George Cohen	Matt Felis	Sam Harrell	Julie & Bob Jones	Robert Macon	Mark Nanna
Linda Black	Richard Cohen	David Ferrell	Calvin Harris	Luann Jones	Lisa Macy	Tim Nassar
Mark Black	Darryl Coleman	Terry Fey	Charles Harrison	Alexander Jordan	Macy's	Gail & John Neeld
Janet Blackmon	Kimberly Coleman	Tammy Finley	Mary O. Harrison	Beverly Jordan	Angela Maddux	William Nellen
Melissa & Jason Blalock	Lacie Collins	Bryan Fisher	Camilla Harshbarger	Dominic Jordan	Lori Klingler & Frank Maffe	Suzanne Estes &
Brandy Blaylock	Vern Comeauz	Fred Fisher	Vince Hart	Kelly Jordan	Dena McGuire Young &	Chris Nesbitt
Caroline Nelson & Sim Blitch	A. Compotto	Michael Fisher	Jeff Harvard	Tracey Jordan	David Young	Pat Newberry
Erin Blue	Kathy Compton	Denise & William Flook	Jeff Harvey	Letitia & John Judy	Casey Maher	Thomas Ngo
Thomas Blum	Peter Conlon	Marcella Flowers	G Hassen	Chris Jupin	Cecilia & Bill Maher	Beverly Nicholls
Curt Boatman	Duncan Connell	Flynn Family	Jett Hattaway	Joanne Justice	Edwin Maldonado	Dennis Nichols
Bobby Mack, Inc.	Patricia Connor	Mildred & Mark Fockele	Jim Hatten	Jennifer & Bill Kaduck	Richard Malerba	Mitch Nielcamp
Ryan Boelter	Meredee Conyers	Craig Forbes	Jen & Matt Hauser	Andy Kalber	Richard Maner	Timothy Nissar
Robin Boggs	Annie Cooch	Nancy & Lew Forbes	Becky Hausmann	Marissa Kandel	Chris Manganiello	Angela Norma
Meg Bohn	Abby Cook	Tiffany Fowler	Lee Haverstock	Sharon Kane	Callie Manley	Bill Norman
Christine & Tyler Boldt	Roberta Cook	Vicki Fox	Jeff Hawkins	Kim & Jacob Keene	Richard Mann	Marian & Nelson Northcutt
Melanie & Robert Boltax	Virginia & Robert Copeland	Carlin Fravel	Shannon & Ted Hawthorne	Pamela Keene	Burt Manning	Beth & Roger Nott
David Bolton	Kevin Cornett	Allegra & Terry French	Peter Hayes	Mary Keesee	Phillip Manning	Robert Nowak
Ingrid & Robert Bolton	Adam Corvin	Valerie Friedman	Kelly Hediger	Joseph Keim	Laura Mara	Johnathan Nowak
Sam Booher	Ann Couch	Friends of McIntosh	Jared Heiler	John Kelly	Marietta Gardeners Club	Ron Noyes
Beverly & Lamar Booth	Brad Courts	Reserve	Judy Heilman	Jan Kepic	Mr. & Mrs. Miles Marks	Kristin Oates
Oleg Borunov	April Cox	Jack Friou	Judy Meyer &	Tamra & Jack Kerch	Lewis Marshall	Sean O'Connell
Sondra & Patrick Bowie	Henry Cox	Kevin Frutiger	Gene Helfman	Mark Kercher	Jeff Marshall	Ann & Scott Offen
Jodie Boyd	Randi & Roger Cox	Kenneth Fry	Jane Hemmer	Gene Keserica	Phil Martens	Caitlan O'Keeffe
Lisa & Jim Boyette	Sean Cox	Kathy & Robert Fuller	Susan Hendee	William Kessler	Rhonda & Lonny Martin	Beth Old
Jane Brackett	Laurence Coyle	Taylor Holland &	Don Henderson	Mary Kilgo	John Martin	Joyce Oliver
Claire & Jamie Bradfield	Jane Alice Craig	Owens Fuquea	Helen & George Henry	Jack Killorin	Michael Martin	Alison O'Neil
Anita Bradham	Kathleen Crawford	Michael Furgerson	Tom Hensley	Abbey Kimble	Doug Martinelli	Thomas O'Neill
Sally Sue Bradley	David Crenshaw	Cathy & Fred Fussell	Gary Herber	Eric King	Lucas Martini	Alison Onstine
Jennifer Brandon	Dean Crist	Gavin Gaffney	Linda Herbers	Deanna King	John Massey	Steve Oppenheimer
Tisha Brangan	Caroline & Tom Crittenden	Geri & Tim Gagat	Hugo Hernandez	Kathy King	Doug Mathews	Joie Osborne
Mary Breen	Thomas Cromartie	Shelby & Glenn Garde	Mollie Hosfeld &	Sio King	Barbara & Art Mathis	Wilson Oswald
Marcia Brelsford	Stacy & Ronald Cromer	Wendy Gardner	Joseph Herzberger	William King	James Mathis	Catherine & Dudley Ottley
Scott Bridgers	Megan Cronin	Catherine Gavrilidis	Nick Heuman	Andrew Kingery	Kristen Mattei	Gary Overacre
Jonathan Brinson	Robb Cullinane	Barbara Mills &	Cindy Heusel	Christopher Kingsbury	Gregory Matti	Tim Ovington
Bobby Brooks	Roy Cutchin	George Geeslin	Alan Hibara	Aleksandra Kingston	Thomas Mattison	Donald Owens
Susan & Bill Brooksher	Mary Lou Dabbs	Mary Lou & Richard	Rusty Hicks	Harriet & Kip Kirkpatrick	Patrick Mawhinney	Mitchell Padgett
Brandon Brown	Dorinda Dallmeyer	Gennings	Teresa Higgins	Annie Godfrey &	Wendee & Ben Maxwell	Lisa Pair
Brook Brown	Paula Darden	Jerry Gentry	Lesley High	John Kittle, Jr.	Nick Mayfield	Antonio Palmer
Carla Brown	Robert Darnell	Sam Gentsch	Donna Hill	Sabrina & Hank Klausman	Alicia Mayo	Alyson Palmer
Claire Brown	Robin W. Darnell	Gisela & David George	Nick Hisey	Aidan Knezo	Melanie Hof &	Ray Pancieva
Jane Brown	Patrick Davey	Elizabeth Gerlach	Ina Allison & Jeff Hite	Andy Knight	Allen McAdams	Lauren Panetta
Mark Brown	Edward Davidson	Joey Gibson	Scott Hodge	Betty Knights	Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford	Simon Parfitt
Joy Brownworth	John Davidson	Gregory Gilbert	Arch Hodges	Peter Kobliska	Rachel & Chris McBride	Nick Parker
Michael Bruckner	Nickius Davis	Jason Gilbert	Amanda Hoffman	Jennifer Kobylus	Ann McCallon	Dey & Pick Parks
Lauranne Buchanan	Wally Dean	Edward S. Giles	Cassandra Hoffmann	Raymond Kodesch	Pamela McCampbell	Mary & Bill Parsons
Zona Buchen	Kelly Demestih	Robert Gillen	Bob Hoffman	Marty Koehler	Alexis & Chadd McCarley	Sam Passmore
Laura Buck	Clint DePriest	Matt Giordano	Robert Hoffman	Sara Kogon	Perry McCarty	Meghan & Terry Pate
Diane & Dan Buckman	Lisa M. DeSheers	Brian Girten	Diane Holcombe	Vida Komer	Cullen & Laney McClure	Jignesh Patel
Susan Burdick	John Dickerson	Bruce Glick	Maxwell Holder	Tamara Koperda	Cynthia & Paul McCollough	Linda Patrick
David Burge	Mark DiGirolamo	Stephen Goin	Fran & Charles Holland	Richard Korson	Scott McDaniel	Joe Patrick
Adrian Burke	Lisa Dimanttina	Evia Golde	Carol Holliday	Melissa Korwan	Maggie McDonald	Timothy Patrick
Pamela Burns	Michael Dinizio	Bill Goldstrohm	Daniel Holloway	Diane & Gene Korzeniewski	Kelly McDonald	Michael Patterson
Peggy Amend &	Kerry Dixon	Sally & Larry Golsen	Michael Holt	Hannah Kraar	Jean & Ed McDowell	Joseph Paul
Bob Buschman	Stewart Dodge	Richard Gonowit	Yvonne Holt	Susan Kreft	Kevin McEachron	Debra Pauli
Dave Butler	Maria Dolan	Kevin Gooding	Michael Honnold	Austin Kriz	Regina McEwen	Sarah Paulk
Tom Butler	Mike Dolan	Benjamin Goodrow	LouAnn & Will Hood	The Kroger Company	Scott McGinnis	Bruce Payne
Robin & John Byars	Tim Domino	Helen & Ted Gordon	Tom Hooks	Foundation	Rosemary McIntire	Paypal Charitable
Igor Bystrika	Rich Donnellan	Richard Gorowitz	Evelyn Hopkins	Marilyn Krone	Lynn McIntyre	Giving Fund



David Pearce	Lynn & David Rogers	Caitlin Still	Laura Warren	<i>In honor of Sally Bethea</i>	<i>In honor of</i>	Canoe Restaurant
Beth Kosman & Martin Pearson	Warren Rogers	Andy Stinson	Thomas Wasson	Anne & Martin Emanuel	<i>Ron &amp; Joyce Moses</i>	Cartoon Network
Ryland Peele	Carter Ross	Angie & Jerry Stober	John Watkins		Karen & Kevin Harrington	Center for Puppetry Arts
Brian Pendergrass	Kelli Carroll & David Ross	Esther & Jim Stokes	Susan & Thomas Watson	<i>In memory of</i>		Château Élan Winery & Resort
Melanie & Patrick Penna	Louise & Edwin Rothberg	Dee Stone	Charles Watts	<i>Pauline &amp; Joseph Breiner</i>	<i>In honor of Brian O'Shea</i>	CinéBistro
Britt Pereira	Mary Roy	Ickis Stone	William Watts	Dr. Jeri Breiner	Cheryl Blauth	
Manuel Perez	Robert Rozanski	Robert Stout	Chuck Watwood		<i>In honor of Gladys Pettiford</i>	Cohutta Fishing Company
Thomas Perrie	J Rucker	Shelley Strickland	Chrissie & James Wayt	<i>In honor of Dale Caldwell</i>	Robert Pettiford	Costa del Mar
William & Matthew Perry	Roger Rupnow	Tyler & Eric Strom	Christopher Webb	Creative Arts Study Club		Decatur Yoga & Pilates
David Perryman	Robby Russell	Greg Stuart	Elizabeth Webb		<i>In memory of Sylvan Proser</i>	Due South Brand
Geoff Persell	Steven Ryan	Emaline Sturch	Robert Weeks	<i>In memory of Chris Ciocca</i>	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lebovitz	Eric Estrada Art
Chuck Pesherya	Mike Rylee	Joseph Suarez	Todd Wegenast	Jennifer Giunta		Fainting Goats Vineyard & Winery
Wendy Peter	Daniel Sabou	Elizabeth Sudduth	Carolyn Weinbaum	<i>In honor of Cameron &amp; Gerald Clark</i>	<i>In honor of</i>	Fern Valley
Cory Pettier	Moira Salazar	Kerry Sullivan	Dinah Welch	Molly & Jeffrey Lane	<i>Sue &amp; Chris Reynolds</i>	The Field & The Fly
Margaret & Brian Philbin	Ruben Salazar	Wendy Sullivan	Cheryl Weldon		Molly & Jeffrey Lane	Fincognito
Diana Phillips	Suzanne Salgado	Cal Supik	Adam Welker	<i>In honor of Phil &amp; Charlene Coe</i>	<i>In honor of Sydney Roberts</i>	Fishe Wear
Ian Phillips	Howard Salk	Tally Sweat	Vicki & Thomas West	Kathleen K. Hraba	Larimore Roberts	Fly Shop Company
Michael Phillips	Jeremie Sanders	Daffney Swint	Paula Whitaker		<i>In honor of Patti &amp; Don Ross</i>	Georgia Association of Water Professionals
Karen & Joel Piassick	Ron Sanders	Donna & James Sylvan	Michael White	<i>In honor of Juliet Cohen</i>	Susan Loewenberg	Georgia Harvest Tables
James Pichard	Teresa & Robert Sands	Joyce Taafe	Signe White	Betty Londergan		Golden Bikes
Jean & Marc Pickard	Rein & Jane Saral	Sandi Tadeo	Lee Whiteford	<i>In honor of Debbie Coppedge</i>	<i>Sane Wetlands Protection</i>	Google
Dita Pickering	Lydia Sartain	Marco Talley	Steve Wilder	Katherine Coppedge	Sonja & Scott McLendon	Hall County Park & Leisure
Justin Pickett	Sabine & Brian Savoie	Martha & Terry Tankersley	Robert Wilhelm		<i>In honor of Christine Craig</i>	HGA Fundraising
Jan Pierce	Michelle Marcus & Robert Sayer	Cheryl Tarr	Lisa Wilkerson		Alan Fossa	Henry Jacobs
Jay Pierce	Tom Sayroe	Tattle Tail, Inc.	Wilkinson Family	<i>In honor of Phil &amp; Charlene Coe</i>	<i>In honor of Mary Schrepfer</i>	Kimberly Clark Corporation
Roxanne & Price Pittman	Nathaniel Schattner	Tammy Tatum	Jennifer Wilkinson	<i>In honor of Cynthia Crater</i>	Antoinette Appling	LakeLanierArt.com
Diane & David Pitts	Schippmann Family	Susan Taunton	Claire Williams	Natalie Shearl	Kelly Brock	Mary Anne Lanier
Denise Point	Bob Schmitt	Anne Taylor	Debbie Williams		Stephanie Callaway	Live Nation
Will Pond	Paul Schramm	Christy Taylor	Lois & David Williams	<i>In honor of Denise Donahue &amp; Simone du Bois</i>	Jeff Enyart	Loka Swimwear
Angie & Steve Ponsell	Meaghan & Jason Schroeder	Christopher Teale	Tonya Williams	Dr. Jon DuBose	John & Eileen Gilberto	Mastermind Escape Games, LLC
Nancy & Lendy Poole	Christine Schultz	Vickie Teall	Valencia R. Williams		Kathleen Marran	Kathy May
Robert Pope	Kaethe Schuster	Carole Teja	Walt Williams	<i>In honor of Darwin Esrey</i>	Kenyetta Rivera	Amanda & Paul Mayberry
Ashlee Porri	Jessica Schwartz	Amy & Kyle Tepas	Mark Williamson	Audra & Daniel Esrey	Mark Rudel	The Metropolitan Club
Edward Pounds	Jason Schweitzer	Lauren Tereshkow	Sue Williamson		Stephen Sanders	Nacoochee Tavern
Dale Powell	Jason Schweitzer	Paula Fernandes-Testoni & Tiziano Testoni	Frank Willingham	<i>In honor of Matthew Fishel</i>	<i>In honor of Mary Sevier</i>	NAICS Association
Janet Powell	Barbara & Bill Schwendler	Angie Thomas	Dixie Wilson	Jennifer Gibson	William Mackin	Nantahala Outdoor Center
Vivian & Iain Prentice	Dale Schwietering	Mandisha Thomas	Gail C. Wilson		Katie Bayne	Native Eyewear
Marisa & David Preston	Don Scott	Paul Thomas	Glenn Wilson	<i>In honor of Lara Flanders</i>	<i>In honor of Julia Stewart</i>	Orion Coolers
Breck Prewitt	Graham & Margaret Scott	Sandra Thomas	Jason Wilson	Walton Communities	Michelle Frost	Ormsby's
Suzanne Prince	Laine Scott	Todd Thoman	Joycelyn Wilson			The Orvis Company
Caroline Prochnow	Kaleigh & Shaun Scruggs	Zach Thomason	Patrick Wilson	<i>In honor of Aubrey Frye</i>	<i>In honor of</i>	Orvis Pursell Farms
Connie Propes	Barbara Seal	Allen Thompson	Susan Wilson	Elyse Brouillette	<i>Wendy &amp; Nate Thomas</i>	Padgett Hoke
Edward Puckett	Melba Searcy	Daryll Thompson	Tonya Wilson		Janet & Robert Riggs	Patagonia Atlanta
Andrew Puetz	Charlotte Seefeldt	Debbie Thompson	Robin Winter	<i>In honor of Alyson Fuchs</i>		Pesca Muerta
Pugh Family	Jake Seeley	Garniner Thompson	Sandi Winter	Amy & Joe Palmer	<i>In memory of</i>	Piedmont Fly Company
Barry Pullen	Bailey Seitter	Lonetha Thompson	Susan & Elliott Winton	<i>In honor of Erik Fyfe &amp; Family</i>	<i>Paul Richard Turman</i>	Bonny Putney
Kimberly & Brad Putnam	Ann Sellman	Randy Thrower	Wisteria Garden Club	Derek Fyfe	Donna Turman	Queen Media Company
Amy & Phil Qualter	Matt Sewell	Dr. & Mrs. Tietjen	Graham Witt		Jon Zarett	Re:Loom
Carl Quertermus	David Shadix	Mary Todd	Steve Witt	<i>In honor of Steve Gold</i>	<i>In honor of VBS 2018</i>	Regency Fine Art & Frame
Kyung Ra	Dawn & Steve Shaffer	Ann Tolbert	Maury & Ed Wolfe	Jack & Michal Hillman	<i>Volunteers &amp; Participants</i>	Rep Your Water
Jon Radtke	Hayes Shearer	Muriel & Jim Toler	Mark Woodall		Embry Hills UMC	Reynold's Plantation
Steven Radtke	Laura Shedd	t-Olive Properties	Thomas Woods	<i>In honor of Erik Fyfe &amp; Family</i>	<i>In honor of Lisa Verscharen</i>	at Lake Oconee
Carol & Stephen Raeber	Bryan Sherrod	Tim Tomerlin	Maggie & Bill Wooten	Ashleigh-Joi Silas	Jan Kepic	River's Edge Guide Service
Seth Ramesh	Terry Shikano	Tyler Tomy	Joel Wooten			River Through Atlanta
Luis A. Ramirez	Jane Shine	Delanie & Paul Tondera	Ken Wohlford	<i>In honor of Mark Greatrex</i>	<i>In honor of James Watson</i>	S&S Fire Pits
J Ramsey	Tim Shippmann	Lawrence Toner	Wright Family	Mark Woodall	Norma Watson	Serenbe Development Corp.
Marcia Postal-Ranney & Tim Ranney	Justin Shoemake	Sarah Topper	James Wright	Kimberly Cheatle	<i>In honor of Signe White</i>	Serenity In The Mountains
Blake Rappaport	Cesar Sierra	Scott Towler	Jeffrey Wright	Alan Panovka	Deborah Dagenhart	Shane Durrance Productions
Kayla Rappaport	Sierra Club Centennial Group	Alan Towles	Matt Wuuds		<i>In honor of John Whittemore</i>	Sight Line Provisions
Margaret Rasmussen	Ward Silver	Travis Towns	David Wyatt	<i>In honor of Paula Heer</i>	Amy Landesberg	Sky Ridge Yurts
Ghazal Rath	Richard Simmons	Joe Townsend	Tanner Wynn	Kimberly Cheatle	<i>In memory of George Wood</i>	Smart Glass Jewelry
Laura Ratliff	Mary & Branch Sinkule	Rich Travis	James Yancey	Alan Panovka	Dawn & Jason Ulseth	Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP
Paul Raulet	Kathie Neyman & Henry Skoog	Stephen & Charlene Triemer	Jeannette Yen		<i>In honor of David Word</i>	Smith Optics
Dewey Ray	James Slay	Rodney Trugman	Stanley Young	<i>In honor of Henry Jacobs</i>	James Zahniser-Word	Sotheby's
Mike Ray	Paul Slovisky	Vicki & Walter Tschinkel	Helen & Griggs Zachry	Jan & Mike Angstadt		Southern Comfort
Nikki Ray	Kevin Smallhorn	Nancy & Tony Tucker	Alyssa Bowers-Zamani & Rad Zamani		<i>In honor of Claire Young</i>	Cabin Rentals
Walt Ray	Ben Smith	Robert Tucker	Carol & Ron Zaremba	<i>In honor of</i>	Scott Young	Streamwalker Nets
Lisa Rayner Catherall	Cathleen Smith	William Turk	Clare Zens	<i>Eleanor Day- Jeselnik</i>		StudioSwan, LLC
Mark Redman	Charles Smith	Dane Tyler	Michael Zerressen	Alison Jeselnik		Suspenz
Deborah Reed	Charles Smith	Ravi Vachani	Craig Zimmerman		<i>In honor of George Wood</i>	Swedish Torch Supply
Stephen Reeves	Cody Smith	Stephanie Valdez Streaty	Meghan Zimmerman	<i>In memory of Christopher J. Jones</i>	Dawn & Jason Ulseth	Sweetland Amphitheater
Kermit Rehm	Garrett Smith	Pat Valykeo	Janice L. Zumot	Benjamin Ambrose		Sweetwater Brewing Company
Sydney Reiff	Gary Smith	Lynn Boyd & Harry Vann		Thomas Cathcart	<i>In honor of David Word</i>	The White Carpet Club
Lisa Remley	James Smith	Rob Veal		City of Gainesville	James Zahniser-Word	at Beaver Creek
Janet & Buddy Reneau	Lyn Smith	Carter Vick	William Bell	Clayton Cox		Theatrical Outfit
Ellen Reneke	Ric Smith	Jennifer & Bill Victor	Joshua Crane-Whittington	Susan DeLong		Tipple + Rose Tea Parlor & Apothecary
Margaret Reneke	Robbby Smith	Ken Villena	Gavin Gaffney	Frank Henry		Toccoa House Properties
Andy Rettig	Robert Smith	Anbarasan Vincent	Benjamin Hansen	Jack Hough		Harlan Trammell
Michael Revitsky	Suzanne Smith	Jaysen Vincent	Leah & Jonathan Jordan	Bonnie Hunt		Tree Top Quest
Connor Reynolds	Jerry Smithson	Leigh Violante	Joseph Lyle	Leon Farmer & Company		Unicoi Outfitters
Judy & Ed Rice	Dawn Snyder	Sharad & Gina Virmani	Michele Meador	Neil & Debbie Pittman		United Distributors
Gary Rich	Kelly Sollinger	Nick Vitale	Kira Signer-Romero	Edmund Waller Jr.		Van Michael Salon (Buckhead)
Stephen Rickaby	Mark Soss	Tom Vitale	Sue Stoudemire			Van Michael Salon (Virginia Highlands)
Bill Ridca	Jeff South	Vinh Vo	Tynke & Frederik ten Lohuis	<i>In honor of Susanne Keough</i>		Village Health Wellness Spa
Brynn Ridgewell	Southern Harbor Marina	Chris von Holt	Antonia Treverton	Larimore Roberts		Andy Weiner
Scott Riegert	Greg Sowder	Anna Vornholt				Westbrook Supply Company
Trent Riley	Sharon Sowders	Rich Vornholt		<i>In honor of Dyna Kohler</i>		Wildwood Outfitters
Tim Rischuk	Alison Sprowls	Sophia Voychehovski		Wendy Silver		WSB-TV
Tim Rizner	Beth St. Jean	Wayne & Dawn Wadsworth		Joe Trachtenberg, Ph.D.		Yeti
Michael Roberts	Rhonda St. Peters	Christopher Walden				Yonah Mountain Vineyards
Shea Roberts	Helen Stacey	Lisa Waldrop		<i>In honor of</i>		
Gerald Robinson	Rawoy Stair	Merry Waldroup		<i>Marianna MacLeod</i>		
Joshua Robinson	Melanie & Eric Stallings	Judy Walker		Ryan Stedwell		
Ruth Rocap	Thomas Todd Statton	Ron Walker				
Philip Rodning	Telle Stein	Sarah Walker		<i>In honor of Nathan Mascaro</i>		
Susan & Al Rodriguez	Kat Stephens	Kurt Wall		Jennifer Mascaro		
Eric Rogers	Carol Stewart	Sharon Walters				
Gina & Gordon Rogers	LeAnn Stewart	Brenda Wardlaw		<i>In honor of Andy Mills</i>		

With your help, we stand strong to ensure our drinking water is clean and safe and that our Chattahoochee River system is protected for us now and for future generations. Please become a member today by visiting [chattahoochee.org/become-a-member-or-renew](http://chattahoochee.org/become-a-member-or-renew).



# A LEADER AMONG US

**"I can't imagine a more worthy cause that one can take part in. Simply put, this program saves lives." - Cullen McClure**

Cullen has been fly fishing his entire life, a passion he inherited from his mother and grandparents. Today, he shares his passion for fly fishing, and the healing powers of the Chattahoochee River, with hundreds of injured and disabled military service personnel and disabled veterans as a volunteer with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF). "My mental and physical health benefit from my connection to water; I'd hate to see what would happen if we didn't have the 'Hooch to share with one another," says McClure.

Founded in 2005, Project Healing Waters has more than 200 chapters, including one in Atlanta. In 2018, they served more than 8,000 veterans across the country through fly tying lessons, rod building, casting instruction and guided fishing trips. "I can't imagine a more worthy cause that one can take part in. Simply put, this program saves lives."

To learn more about Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, visit [projecthealingwaters.org](http://projecthealingwaters.org). For more on the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited, visit [ucctu.tu.org](http://ucctu.tu.org).

Cullen's service to the river community goes beyond PHWFF as he is also the President of the Upper Chattahoochee Chapter of Trout Unlimited (UCCTU) based in Roswell. In 2018, UCCTU launched the #cleanmywater campaign to tackle the trash problem in and around our waterways. The social media campaign aims to engage a younger demographic, which is underrepresented in river protection. "We hope that a photo of a net full of trash or an old computer monitor on the banks will stop you from blindly scrolling through your feed and make you think."

Both groups are important river stakeholders and CRK partners. "With Cullen taking the lead at UCCTU, and his continued work with PHWFF, we can expect that our partnerships, both on and off the water, will continue to grow and benefit even more people in the years to come," said Riverkeeper, Jason Ulseth.

Photo credit: Winged Reel

## RECONNECTING A COMMUNITY TO ITS RIVER

**Diana Wilson wears her enthusiasm for her city on her sleeve. Get her talking about the city of Chattahoochee Hills and you will soon learn about her mission to reconnect this South Fulton community to the Chattahoochee River.**

"People who have lived in this area for many years say that the water used to stink," Diana explains. "No one wanted to get near the river. All that has changed and the river is so much cleaner now."

The section of river that flows past Chattahoochee Hills is cleaner today than it has been for decades. The fishing is good, and water quality regularly meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for swimming. With this resurgence in river health, hundreds of people have begun spending time on this section of river each year, and cities like Chattahoochee Hills are working to promote river access. "Public access to the river is especially

needed in this area," says Diana. "Although our city borders the Chattahoochee River for 18 miles, we have no public access."

As Parks Commission Chair, Diana plays a big part championing Chattahoochee Hills' commitment to creating river access. In October, she organized a paddle trip with CRK and River Banks Adventures, bringing community members and city staff on the water. Diana also recently secured a commitment from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to establish a new boat ramp for residents, which will greatly increase opportunities to explore the Chattahoochee downstream of Atlanta. The new ramp will be built at Campbellton Park, in conjunction with the first part of a planned 25-mile water trail.

The return of communities like Chattahoochee Hills to the river is something to celebrate. Because of CRK's work, the Chattahoochee River downstream of Atlanta has become a place where people want to spend time and explore, and leaders like Diana Wilson are creating new opportunities to do just that.



**"Public access to the river is especially needed in [Chattahoochee Hills]. Although our city borders the Chattahoochee River for 18 miles, we have no public access."**

- Diana Wilson, Parks Commission Chair for Chattahoochee Hills

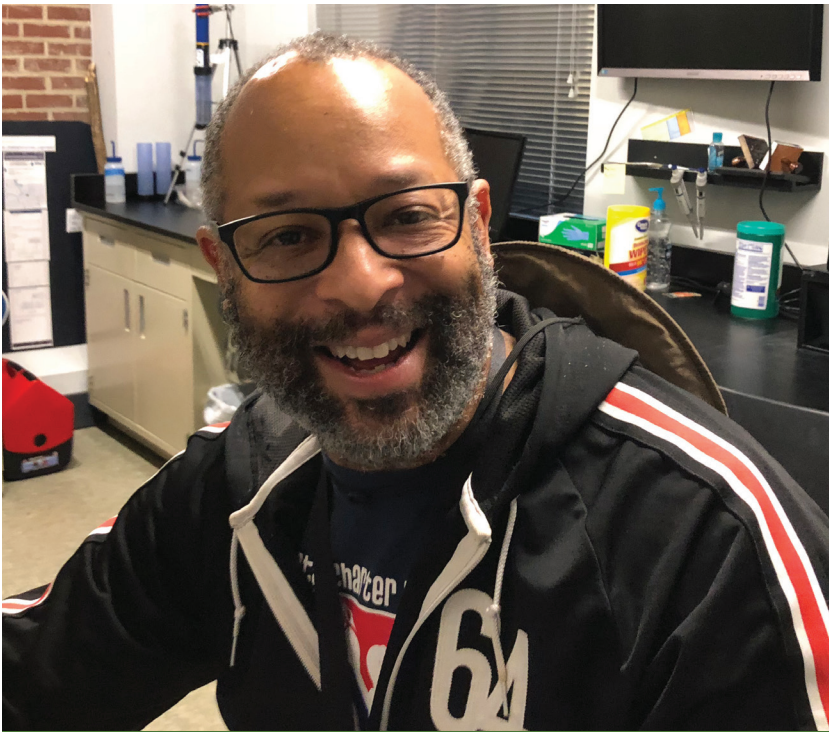


# WELCOME ABOARD BRYAN JENKINS!

**Chattahoochee Riverkeeper welcomes our newest Board Member Bryan Patrick Jenkins, though he is no newbie to the CRK family.**

Actively volunteering with Neighborhood Water Watch (NWW) since February 2016, Bryan has collected more than 200 water samples and helped identify multiple sewer spills in Sandy Creek, making a huge difference to the west Atlanta waterway.

As Vice-President of the Collier Heights Community Association and Co-Chairperson of the Friends of Jenny Drake Park Steering Committee, Bryan has worked tirelessly to protect and advocate for Sandy Creek. “I took to this thing and I absolutely enjoy sampling the water and bringing it back to know what’s in it.” Knowing what’s in the water has certainly helped CRK improve the waterway, but Brian has also been affected. “This has been a real important thing; I didn’t expect it to impact me in this way.”



**“If we don’t protect the water, what are we leaving for our children and the generations to come?”**

- Bryan Patrcik Jenkins, CRK Board Member and Volunteer

A Morehouse College alumnus with more than twenty years of academic, cable and broadcast television production experience, Bryan is a well-known and respected professional in the area of television production in the U.S. and abroad; working with such networks as BET, ESPN, VH-1, WSB-TV Atlanta, Fox television and Fox Sports. Currently General Manager of Clark Atlanta University’s Cable Access Television station (CAU-TV), he guides the overall vision of the channel and its link to academic classes that use the cable TV studio labs.

Even with all that going on, Bryan—now married with two lovely children—still finds time to collect water samples, attend community meetings, and is always willing to go the extra step to increase community awareness and address water quality concerns in west Atlanta and beyond. He understands what’s at stake, “If we don’t protect the water, what are we leaving for our children and the generations to come?” Welcome Brian, we are lucky to have you aboard!

# DRAGONFLIES DON'T JUST FLY

Visit a river or a stream on a sunny day and you will likely see numerous insects darting along the water’s surface. What you don’t see are the larvae and nymphs—baby insects—living on the river bottom, on logs resting in the water, and on roots embedded in the bank.

**Rivers and streams are teeming with small insects that make up the base of the food web.**

Dragonflies are one of the insects, and spend approximately one to two years living as a small brown bug in the water before they emerge and take flight in the air. They are also an “indicator species,” meaning that the health and number of these organisms can tell us a lot about water quality.

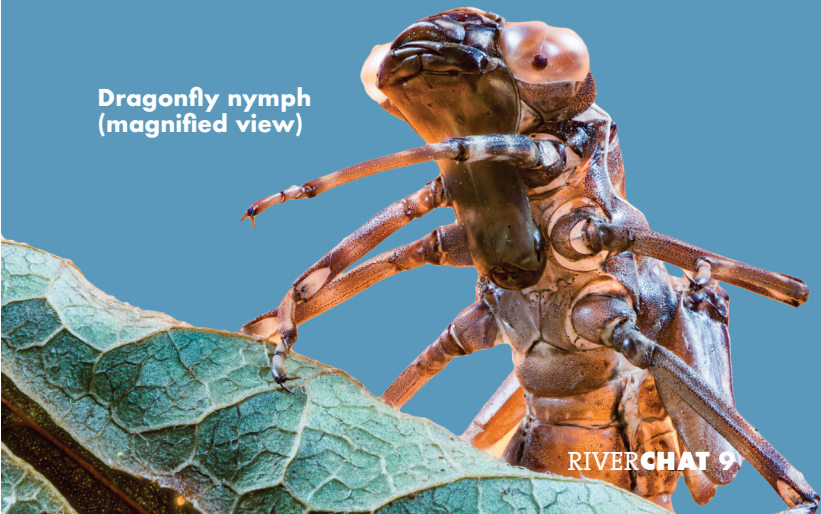


**“Aquatic invertebrates, especially dragonflies, are the food base for the trout. When water quality is good, the dragonflies thrive, and therefore, the trout thrive.”**

-Chris Scalley, River Guide, River Through Atlanta

Most dragonfly species are sensitive to pollution—they need clear water in order to find food and lots of dissolved oxygen in the water to survive. You won’t find many of them in polluted urban streams, but they are abundant in the cool, clear water of the upper Chattahoochee and in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, where CRK has worked to lower pollution levels for years.

They are also an important source of food for fish. Chris Scalley, a river guide with River Through Atlanta, spends hundreds of days each year fishing the waters of the Chattahoochee and knows the importance of larval aquatic insects. “Aquatic invertebrates, especially dragonflies, are the food base for the trout. When water quality is good, the dragonflies thrive, and therefore, the trout thrive.”





# FILLING THE WATER GAP

In 2016, the metropolitan Atlanta region experienced a short, two-year drought. Normally, outdoor watering, regardless of drought conditions in Georgia, is only allowed before 10 a.m. and after 4 p.m. But the drought became so intense in 2016 that additional outdoor water use restrictions were implemented to make sure Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River could provide enough water for drinking, swimming and fishing should the drought intensify.

CRK’s promotion of aggressive water conservation and efficiency has been a cornerstone of our advocacy. In 2011 and 2012, CRK produced *Filling the Water Gap: Conservation Successes and Missed Opportunities in Metro Atlanta* to outline local water conservation efforts within the region. CRK is pleased to announce a new edition of this report, highlighting eleven jurisdictions—cities, counties and water utilities—that rely on the Chattahoochee River basin’s water.

**"Water distribution efficiency can be put to work to address climate change and to cope with its effects."**  
- Paul Hawken, Editor, *Project Drawdown*

The report’s goal is to present successes and opportunities to advance water conservation and efficiency in the Chattahoochee River basin and beyond. It is becoming increasingly important to address the impacts of climate change and adapt to prolonged drought conditions. Water conservation and efficiency are tools



that protect the natural and human environment, and will lead to a sustainable future. In a municipal context, comprehensive water conservation and efficiency programs can do more than encourage individuals to “think at the sink” when washing the dishes or brushing their teeth.

Paul Hawken said as a part of Project Drawdown, “water distribution efficiency can be put to work to address climate change and to cope with its effects.” Successful water conservation and efficiency programs reduce the demand for the withdrawal, pumping, transmission and treatment of drinking water and wastewater. Each of those steps requires energy and has a carbon footprint.

By reducing water use and demand among all users, and increasing efficiencies in the system, we use less energy and generate less carbon. This can all have a positive effect on the Chattahoochee River system and beyond. Look for the new edition in Spring 2019.

## LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

### Clean Water Is Not Free

You may be familiar with the saying “there’s no such thing as a free lunch.” The same applies for our clean water; if we want clean water, we have to work for it. As a member of the Georgia Water Coalition, CRK works with our partners under the Gold Dome to advocate in favor of laws that protect every person’s right to fishable, drinkable and swimmable water—a practice we will continue into 2019.

### Trust Fund Honesty

Under the Georgia Constitution, legislators can adopt laws creating fees to fund state programs. These collected fees are intended to fund a number of programs including hazardous site clean-ups and illegal tire dump clean-ups. Georgia has adopted a number of these fees, including, for example the Solid and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds. Since these funds were created in the early 90s, more than 40% of the collected funds, more than \$200 million, have been diverted to pay for other portions of the state budget. The solution is a constitutional amendment that gives legislators the authority to transparently dedicate fee revenues while providing flexibility in the event of a downturn or recession.

### Coal Ash

While Georgia Power is closing retired and unlined coal ash storage ponds, a loophole in Georgia law may soon change what happens to the ash. Beginning in July 2019, local governments will charge landfill operators \$2.50 for every ton of household garbage collected, and only \$1 per ton of coal ash. With some 8 million tons of coal ash to dispose of at local landfills, this translates into a potential \$12 million windfall for Georgia Power. What’s worse, the coal-ash loophole means that Georgia will continue to be a dumping ground for out-of-state coal ash. Legislators must close this loophole.

### Buffer Protections

Following a 2015 Georgia Supreme Court decision that the General Assembly should clarify language in the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, which is used to identify and measure buffers on state waters, CRK and partners continue to pursue a legislative fix to correct this gap in buffer protections statewide.

**The most powerful tool we have to pass these clean water protections is your voice. Please contact your state representatives to tell them that clean water is important to you. Learn more about these and other bills, and how to share this message at [chattahoochee.org/our-work/legislature](http://chattahoochee.org/our-work/legislature).**





# NEW TECHNOLOGY USED TO SLEUTH SOURCES OF BACTERIA IN THE CRNRA

**How safe is it to swim, wade and boat in the Chattahoochee River today? For an urban river like the Chattahoochee, much of the answer depends on bacteria levels in the water.**

BacteriAlert, the real-time bacteria monitoring program developed in partnership with CRK, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Parks Service (NPS), has been collecting data from the Chattahoochee River for 18 years. In that time, researchers have noticed a dependable pattern in the data—when it rains, bacteria levels rise. These spikes can put people that recreate in the river at risk of getting sick. The sampling only indicates if bacteria levels are high—what we don’t know is the source.

For years, researchers assumed that the bacteria spikes originated from human sewage from leaking sewer lines and septic tanks. But could other factors be to blame? This question drove USGS scientist Dr. Anna Mckee to use a bacteria sleuthing technique called microbial sourcetracking (MST) to find out.

MST is a relatively new laboratory method that identifies DNA fragments of E. coli bacteria in a water sample that are specific to a source—such as humans, birds, dogs and deer—then measures how much of that bacteria is in the water sample. Having a better understanding of where bacteria pollution is coming from can help resource managers find and stop the pollution at its source and improve water quality overall.

**“Preliminary results show that humans and dogs are both dominant contributors to E.coli in the river when it rains.”**

- Dr. Anna Mckee, Scientist, United States Geological Survey

Mckee collected river samples in the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) at West Paces Ferry, Medlock Bridge Road and Cochran Shoals, and in 11 tributaries that flow into the river during 2016 and 2017. She analyzed samples using the MST method, identifying DNA from humans, dogs and deer.

Her results are interesting, but not completely surprising. “Preliminary results show that humans and dogs are both dominant contributors to E.coli in the river when it rains,” said McKee.

This result has interesting management implications. The human sewage detected by Mckee is likely coming from leaking sewer lines, which overflow when rainwater infiltrates into the sewer system. While the human bacteria pollution problem can be solved with repairs to infrastructure, the problem of dog poop must be addressed through public education and behavioral changes.

“People love to walk their dogs in the national park along the Chattahoochee River; however, far too many fail to properly dispose their dog’s poop in a plastic bag and place it in a waste bin,” said Sally Bethea, Board President of the Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy (CPC), the friends group for CRNRA, and founding director and Riverkeeper of CRK. “In response, CPC is working with the NPS to create a campaign to kick off in 2019. Our hope is that new messaging and branding around dog poop will help change behavior to protect our beloved national park and river.”

Thanks to continuous monitoring by initiatives like BacteriAlert and enhanced detection methods such as MST, park managers may soon be able to ensure that as water levels get higher, bacteria levels stay at a healthy and safe level for river users.

**“People love to walk their dogs in the national park along the Chattahoochee River; however, far too many fail to properly dispose their dog’s poop in a plastic bag and place it in a waste bin.”**

- Sally Bethea, Board President, Chattahoochee Parks Conservancy



**Above: CRK interns collect water samples to measure E.coli levels throughout the Chattahoochee watershed.**





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## 24<sup>TH</sup> PATRON DINNER BREAKS RECORDS



On September 26, 2018, we held our 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Patron Dinner at the Georgia Aquarium. The event was an outstanding success thanks to the 500 guests and sponsors who joined us to celebrate our beloved Chattahoochee River and esteemed honorees.

**Together, we raised more than \$320,000 for our river protection efforts.**

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