



RIVERCHAT

Winter/Spring 2022

A publication of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK)

CLEAN WATER ACT TURNS 50 CELEBRATING THE LAW THAT EMPOWERS CRK TO PROTECT THE CHATTAHOOCHEE

In 1995, an upstart nonprofit organization led a coalition of downstream municipalities, associations, and property owners to sue the City of Atlanta for releasing untreated sewage into the Chattahoochee River, jumpstarting almost two billion dollars in necessary upgrades to city water infrastructure.

During the next three decades, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper would continue to defend the public's right to clean water. In 2001, we joined the Lake Lanier Association and others to force the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to issue the most protective permit in state history to Gwinnett County for a new discharge of treated sewage into Lake Lanier. This successful effort has preserved water quality in Lake Lanier, which supports millions of dollars in economic activity, recreation, and more.

In 2014, CRK challenged operations of an asphalt sealant company that was intentionally releasing toxic coal tar into a tributary less than 1,000 feet from the Chattahoochee River. That action led to \$500,000 for remediation of contaminated soils.

Today, we stand side-by-side in state court with the EPD to secure a new permit issued to Columbus Water Works for its combined sewer discharges to adequately control levels of bacteria and chlorine in one of the most heavily-recreated sections of the Chattahoochee River.

How is CRK able to deliver these and many more victories for the more than five million people that depend on the river? By leveraging

the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its citizen suit provision, which has been an essential foundation of our work.

This year, our nation celebrates the 50th anniversary of the CWA and the essential tools it provides to protect our watershed. While the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948 was the first major U.S. law to address water pollution, it was the amendments of 1972 that created the CWA and many of the modern programs Waterkeepers across the country rely on to keep watch over our waterways.

The CWA was passed half a century ago with broad bipartisan support. When President Nixon vetoed the act over fears that its implementation would prove too costly, the Senate and House of Representatives in a rare showing overwhelmingly voted to override that veto.

In broad strokes, the CWA made it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained; and most importantly for CRK, it created the citizen suit provision, which gives citizens and nonprofit organizations the right to step into the shoes of government agencies when they fail to diligently prosecute the violations of law.

We have used the CWA to force local governments to fix sewer spills and upgrade publicly-owned sanitary sewage treatment plants. We have acted against industrial facilities that purposely dumped pollutants into our streams; and we have required developers to invest in best management

practices that stop muddy stormwater from running off site and into our river.

During the past decade, multiple administrations have attempted to redefine the scope of the CWA. In 2015, the Obama administration attempted to clarify ambiguity about which waters were protected, and in 2019, the EPA under President Donald Trump tried to reduce the scope of which waters were protected. In 2022, the EPA is again drafting new regulations to define which wetlands and streams will be afforded CWA protection alongside our rivers and lakes.

CRK will be commemorating the gold anniversary of the momentous CWA at our annual Patron Celebration on October 13 and with various events during the year. We hope you will join in our celebration of a foundational element of our continued success. ■



50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act

Learn about some
of CRK's significant
cases using this essential
federal law to protect the
Chattahoochee River.

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Thank you for supporting our efforts to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River.

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REFLECTIONS: WHAT THE CLEAN WATER ACT MEANS TO ME AS AN ANGLER

I first started fishing the Chattahoochee River around 1985 with my dad when I was four years old. Neither one of us knew what we were doing, and it took a couple of years before I caught my first trout; but we always had fun and eventually those fishing trips built a connection to the river that I still have to this day.

One thing that I learned early on was if the river water had its natural greenish/clear color water, we were much more likely to catch fish. If the river was muddy and polluted from nearby construction and industrial discharges, we were all but guaranteed a shutout. At the time as a small kid, I had no idea that there were recently-implemented federal regulations that said I had the right to clean, fishable rivers. The Clean Water Act was still in its early stages, but it was already charting the path for cleaner rivers for future fishermen, women and children everywhere.

Today, thanks to the Clean Water Act, the Chattahoochee River is cleaner than it has been in decades. This is great



news for the five million people who depend on the river for drinking water, but also great news to the thousands of people who flock to the river every year to wet a line and cleanse their souls. I often wonder if I could take my kids fishing on the Chattahoochee now if not for the Clean Water Act – probably not. And that’s why I will stop at nothing to defend all attacks on this critical legislation. Our future generations of anglers depend on it. ■

JASON ULSETH
JASON ULSETH, RIVERKEEPER

FACES OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE: DONNA AND JIM GAWLAS

Donna and Jim Gawlas have been volunteering with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper for more than 10 years. “Cleaning the enchanting river and its tributary streams with a group of new and old friends (of all ages, including us elders) sparks great joy,” say the proud pair. Throughout the pandemic and beyond, Donna and Jim say that paddling in the river or wading in its streams has helped keep them grounded and in the present moment. “Looking back over my shoulder at a freshly cleaned waterway gives me a lasting thrill. We are grateful to CRK staff for providing this volunteer opportunity to us several times a year; together, we are making a huge difference.” ■



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER



ON PATROL WITH CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER

Sewage Spill Makes Its Way into Mary Scott Nature Park, Dekalb

After persistent high bacteria counts in Neighborhood Water Watch samples collected at Mary Scott Nature Park, located in Dekalb County, indicated an issue, CRK tracking teams used a series of tests to isolate the inspection area within the park, where a source was identified. DeKalb County Watershed Management was called to the scene, where they made immediate corrective repairs on the line. Several weeks later, after continuing inspections, another nearby dislodged eight-inch sewer line was found by our tracking teams. DeKalb County was again contacted, and our follow-up tests now show vastly improved water quality, indicating all sources of contamination have been located and stopped.



CRK installs first CASSI on Flat Creek

A Chattahoochee Aquatic Sensor System Integrated (CASSI) is a real-time water quality sensor that measures conductivity, temperature, and turbidity. Every 15 minutes, CASSIs send data over a cellular network to a web portal that we monitor remotely. Data gathered using these important sensors is used to track urban water quality issues like illicit discharges, stormwater discharge from construction projects, and sewer overflows. CRK recently installed the first CASSI in the headwaters region, specifically in Gainesville's Flat Creek, a waterway that has long suffered from urban and industrial pollution.

EPA Urges New Direction for Georgia Coal Ash Storage

In January, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) clarified that federal regulations prohibit disposing of coal ash (toxic waste from more than a century of burning coal for energy generation) in pits where it is mixed with groundwater. This derails Georgia Power's unsafe plans currently under consideration by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, which would leave approximately 30 million tons of coal ash in unlined pits partially submerged in groundwater along the Chattahoochee River in Cobb, Coweta, and Heard counties. CRK has long agreed with EPA's interpretation of the law, and we are urging Georgia Power to revise its plans and to excavate this material from pits along the river and dispose of it in permitted, lined landfills.

New Stormwater Permits for Industries and Municipalities

Every five years, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division issues permits for industrial and municipal stormwater that flows off of industrial sites and publicly-owned storm drains, gutters, roadside ditches, and ponds. In 2022, these permits will be reissued after a series of stakeholder meetings and opportunities to submit comment letters to the state. CRK participates in this reissuance process as engaging in permit development remains one of our best chances at making sure these permits adequately protect our water quality.

Diesel spill affects Proctor Creek near Westside Reservoir Park

Investigations continue into the source of fuel identified on multiple occasions in a tributary to West Atlanta's Proctor Creek. Coordinated tracking efforts between Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, local residents, the City of Atlanta, and Georgia Environmental Protection Division are underway. Tests conducted by the city confirm the presence of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons, which are commonly found in fuels. Inspections of several worksites and municipal storm drains located at the intersection of Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard and West Marietta Street NW that lead into Proctor Creek have been conducted, but were not helpful in identifying a source. Any information about the source of this ongoing issue or any issue can be reported anonymously at www.chattahoochee.org/report-a-problem/.

Spill Found and Resolved on Weracoba Creek, Columbus

In October 2021, a concerned community member filed a Hotline report with CRK of a potential illicit discharge into Weracoba Creek near Columbus. Upon further inspection, CRK staff located a nearby outfall with a strong odor of sewage and notable sewage fungal growth within the lower reach of Lakebottom Park. Columbus Water Works (CWW) was notified, and a crew responded to the issue within hours. CWW found the leak upstream of the outfall, and corrected the issue. CRK continues to monitor water quality in this region to protect public and aquatic health.



CRK'S CLEAN WATER ACT CASES OVER THE YEARS

Since our founding in 1994, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) has used the Clean Water Act (CWA) to require developers, industrial facilities, and local governments to clean up their pollution, as well as invest billions in improvements that result in cleaner water and support the economic prosperity of the region.

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, we have compiled a short list of significant cases in which we leveraged this essential federal law to protect the Chattahoochee River for the people, fish, and wildlife that depend on it.

1995

CRK sued the City of Atlanta to stop illegal discharges of untreated sewage into the river. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) eventually joined the suit, which resulted in approximately \$2 billion in upgrades to the city's water infrastructure.

2009

CRK sued the City of Cumming for illegal impacts to Sawnee Creek near Lake Lanier during construction. We settled the case by requiring on-site stream restoration, and funds for additional restoration and education programs in the region, for a total value of approximately \$1 million.



2017



CRK filed a lawsuit against warehouse developers who clear cut a 55-acre property along Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Buford, resulting in sedimentation of Richland Creek, a tributary flowing into the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. We settled the case requiring \$100,000 in site rehabilitation and \$250,000 to various projects to benefit the river.

2019

Columbus Water Works has operated a combined sewer system to discharge sewage and stormwater for almost 30 years without limits for bacteria it could discharge into the river. CRK pressed the EPD to issue a more protective permit with limits on bacteria, which the agency did in 2020. When Columbus Water Works challenged the permit, CRK joined the lawsuit alongside the state agency to defend it. The permit was upheld in 2021, pending appeals, and will require Columbus to upgrade its outdated treatment technologies. ■



2004



CRK joined the Lake Lanier Association and others to force the EPD to issue the most protective permit in state history for Gwinnett County's new discharge of treated sewage into Lake Lanier. As a result, Gwinnett now discharges some of the cleanest treated wastewater in the country, preserving water quality in Lake Lanier, which supports millions of dollars in economic activity, recreation and more.

2014



CRK sued American Sealcoat and a property owner for unpermitted releases of toxic asphalt sealant material to a tributary less than 1,000 feet from the river in south Fulton County. The lawsuit resulted in \$500,000 in remediation to the stream and nearly \$100,000 in supplemental environmental projects to benefit the watershed and its communities.



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***CRK RECEIVES 100%
BOARD AND
EMPLOYEE GIVING**

To become a member, visit chattahoochee.org/become-a-member.



INSIDE CRK'S NEW LOOK

In October of 2021, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) unveiled our new logo and look to help communicate our ongoing dedication to the future of the Chattahoochee River. The rebrand came about as a result of our partnership with Ideabar, a Cox Enterprises company, who awarded CRK the winners of their Good for Green contest. The new logo and overall style are just some of the \$250,000 worth of support Ideabar generously donated. Their work also includes a new website (in progress), informational materials to help spread the word about our work, and other projects. Stay tuned to see more.

The shield shape captures our role as a watchdog for the river and our work to guard it from threats.



A sun represents CRK's enduring optimism for the future of the Chattahoochee River, as well as our commitment to watching over the river through sundown and sunset.

Artwork of the mountains and water communicates the scope of our work, from the mountains in north Georgia where the river gets its start and throughout all the waterways that make up the Chattahoochee watershed. ■



BAMBOO WHO? A LOOK AT THE NATIVE BAMBOO OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE

Walking along the banks and in floodplains of creeks and streams in the Chattahoochee River basin, you can find a habitat rich in flora and fauna. Due to the vibrant diversity of life in our area, the river canes, members of the genus *Arundinaria*, may seem insignificant. However, our native bamboo species play a key role in a healthy ecosystem.

Arundinaria is unique as it is the only native genus of bamboo found in North America. There are three currently accepted species found in the genus, which is part of the *Poaceae*, or grass family. These species are giant cane (*A. gigantea*), switch cane (*A. tecta*), and hill cane (*A. appalachiana*).

Both giant and switch cane are common along creek banks, floodplains, and swampy areas, although switch cane is reliant on the extra wetness to survive. Unlike the other species the newly described hill cane is restricted to a small area within the southern Appalachian Mountains and is found in upland areas.

These plants provide many benefits to their environment. They have extensive root systems which prevent erosion and filter sediment. They are host plants for a number of uncommon skipper and pearly eye butterfly species; the caterpillars of which feed only on the leaves of the bamboo and cannot survive without their host plants.

Historically, vast canebreaks, or stands, of bamboo found in our area provided shelter and habitat for animals, including the timber rattlesnake, which is in decline across its natural range. Indigenous peoples used them for building materials, weapons, basketry, food, medicines, and more. From post-European colonialization to present, human activities such as clearcutting, grazing, and fire suppression have reduced the once prolific canebreaks by 98%.

The newest threat to our native bamboo comes from the invasive golden bamboo (*Phyllostachys aurea*). This Asiatic species was brought to Montgomery, Alabama in 1882 for use as fishing poles. It has since escaped cultivation from old homesites and spread rapidly throughout the Southeast. Due to its fast growth, it outcompetes native species, and creates dense stands, which have no ecological benefit to native animals in our area. It is easy to tell the invasive from the natives, as the Golden Bamboo has a much larger diameter, and stalks often turn a bright yellow color upon death. Efforts are underway to combat the invader, but it has a firm hold throughout the Southeast and in our basin.

“Our three species of bamboo are found nowhere else on earth,” said Ashley Desensi, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Technical Programs Specialist. “These plants should be protected, especially due to their vulnerability to invaders like the non-native golden bamboo.” Although our native bamboo may not be the most eye-catching, giant cane, switch cane, and hill cane are integral parts of the ecosystems found in our watershed and worthy of watching over. ■

WORK FOR A TRASH-FREE CHATTAHOOCHEE CONTINUES WITH RECORD-SETTING CLEANUP



Behind every successful cleanup, there is an exceptional team of volunteers working to get closer to our goal of a Trash-Free Chattahoochee.

In 2021, CRK hosted 41 cleanups with 900 volunteers. Together, we removed 28 tons of trash. On top of that, Sweep the Hooch, held March 2021, resulted in 35 tons of trash removed thanks to more than 1,200 volunteers – all in one day! This annual watershed-wide trash cleanup brings together hundreds of volunteers each year at dozens of parks, tributaries, and access points along the Chattahoochee River.

All combined – more than 2,100 dedicated volunteers removed a staggering 63 tons

of trash from our watershed in 2021. CRK is eternally grateful for the immeasurably valuable work our volunteers have done for CRK and the Chattahoochee River, as well as those supporters who donate gear, dumpsters, space, and time,” says Tammy Bates, Outings Director. “Their support makes our cleanups possible.”

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.

Our work for a Trash-Free Chattahoochee continues in 2022 with even more cleanups all year long. ■

**SWEEP
THE HOOCH**

**Save the
Date**

for this year’s
Sweep the Hooch
on **March 26.**

Register now at
sweepthehooch.org

MICHAEL PORTER JOINS CRK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is happy to welcome Michael Porter to our Board of Directors. Michael joins a group of twenty-four dedicated board members that continue to successfully guide the organization in our mission to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River (CRK).

Michael has worked for the insurance company, Aflac, for 24, including in his current position as the Facilities, Maintenance and Construction Manager. Michael is responsible for implementing environmental and sustainability goals for Aflac’s facilities, so joining CRK’s board in August 2021 was a natural fit. Aflac, a Fortune 500 company, was founded in Columbus, Georgia in 1955 and now covers more than 50 million people worldwide.

In 2017, Aflac began supporting the West Point Lake Floating Classroom and CRK’s effort to provide scholarships to students attending Title 1 schools in Columbus. Since then, 3,391 students from Columbus-area schools

have participated in the on-the-water environmental education program thanks in large part to contributions from the Aflac Foundation. Current support from the foundation is also helping CRK’s water monitoring and trash removal efforts in the Columbus community.

“Growing up in Columbus, the Chattahoochee River has always been

part of my life by playing such an integral part in the livelihood of this beautiful town I call home,” says Michael. “From supporting our past as a mill town to supporting our present and future as a river adventure destination, it is an honor to serve on CRK’s board and ensure that our beautiful river is safe and protected so that it can be enjoyed by my children and by many generations to come.” ■



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS POINT TO CHANGES NEEDED IN STATE STANDARDS



CRK Technical Programs Director Jess Sterling works with the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area to install an algae tracker along Gold Branch Trail in Bull Sluice Lake.

An analysis of CRK’s data collected during the last decade reveals a concerning rise in nutrient levels throughout the Chattahoochee watershed.

Scientists with Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) believe this rise in nutrient levels may be due to a combination of climate change impacts and human behavior. To better understand this problem, CRK has increased monitoring and testing efforts throughout the watershed.

Each summer since 2010, CRK has taken samples from Lake Lanier to test for chlorophyll a, which is used as an indicator of nutrients in the water. CRK has compared the samples to those taken by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Data from both CRK and EPD indicates an increase of nutrient levels every year for the past ten years, including in 2021.

In 2021, Lake Lanier did not meet the standards for chlorophyll at three of the five state designated sites. West Point Lake, where CRK also tests, met EPD standards, but still indicated an alarming increase in nutrients during the last few years. Also in 2021, CRK identified three instances of harmful algal blooms, also known as HABs, in the Chattahoochee River and its lakes. HABs are often caused by high nutrient levels, which leads us to suspect that they are the culprit for these blooms in Bull Sluice Lake, Lake Harding, and

West Point Lake. CRK believes these may be the first instances of HABs to occur in these reservoirs.

High concentrations of nutrients in waterways can harm wildlife as well as drinking water, as impacts of these toxins are difficult to eliminate entirely. The Bull Sluice Lake HAB was first brought to CRK’s attention in January 2021 after a dog died after swimming in the waterway just off the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area’s (CRNRA) Gold Branch Trail. CRK quickly configured a plan with scientists at the CRNRA to test the waterway and protect recreationalists.

It was this first incident that led CRK staff to be more vigilant about spotting HABs in other waterways. The blooms are usually triggered by warm, slow-moving water, which makes up much of West Point Lake and Lake Harding, where the other HABs were identified.

“Climate change may be exacerbating this problem,” says Jess Sterling, CRK’s Technical Programs Director. “We’ve seen an increase in intense rain events, which washes nutrients from lawns, golf courses and farm fields into our waterways. This coupled with warmer spring and fall weather lengthens the growing season for algae, creating the perfect conditions for algae to grow.”

EPD has set standards for nutrients in some bodies of water, including

Lake Lanier and West Point Lake, and stakeholders around Lake Lanier are currently implementing a cleanup plan to address nutrient pollution. Similar standards should be adopted for other waterbodies like streams and rivers, which is often the source of nutrients entering lakes, to help alert local authorities to dangerous levels and spur action for when those standards are not met.

According to the Clean Water Act, a landmark federal law intended to protect all waters of the United States, which turns 50 years old in 2022, deciding on an “acceptable” level of nutrients is up to the states.

“Georgia and Alabama environmental regulators must develop harmful algal bloom reporting systems, and EPD must follow through with plans to develop nutrient criteria standards for Georgia’s waterways,” says the 2021 Dirty Dozen, a report that CRK contributed to which outlines the top 12 threats to Georgia’s water. “Individuals and property owners must take action to stem the flow of nutrients to streams and rivers, including minimizing use of fertilizers, maintaining septic systems, properly disposing of pet waste, and protecting natural streamside buffers.”

With nutrient pollution expected to increase in the coming years, it’s more important than ever for CRK and other water stakeholders to remain vigilant in curbing this complex problem. ■

CREEKSIDE COMMUNITIES COME OUT FOR RIVER RENDEZVOUS



On a chilly November morning, Atlanta residents and neighbors gathered at the newly constructed Westside Reservoir Park's Birth of Atlanta Pavilion for Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's eighth annual Westside River Rendezvous in partnership with West Atlanta Watershed Alliance. The sun quickly warmed the grounds as speakers presented to excited participants who gathered to get instruction on purpose and practice; where, why, and how to get water samples, and how to take observations.

As Jessica Sterling, CRK's Technical Programs Director and event co-ordinator, noted while folks were lining up to get supplies and site instruction packets, "it's really great to see such tight coordination between our fantastic partners and neighbors. Just wonderful to see so many familiar faces and new ones, coming together to really dive deeper and get to know the watershed in their own backyards."

The samples retrieved help us identify potential issue areas, help familiarize participants with creek access points, where they flow, and their condition. Seventy-five participants of this event collected data on 63 locations while CRK staff and interns conducted tests and assessments to capture a more complete picture of watershed health along with how it's changed over the years and opportunities for improvement.

Strong and lasting partnerships undoubtedly create the backbone of the Rendezvous and its year-over-year success. Veteran organizers at CRK and West Atlanta Watershed Alliance put together a fantastic event with support and coordination

"Perhaps the best news this year is that water quality was found to be excellent in most of the locations tested, and ultimately the tests led our tracking teams to an active spill location that was reported to City of Atlanta, now being addressed!"

between seven synchronized partner groups including Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream, Proctor Creek Stewardship Council, and City of Atlanta. Perhaps the best news this year is that water quality was found to be excellent in most of the locations tested, and ultimately the tests led our tracking teams to an active spill location that was reported to City of Atlanta, now being addressed!

Only five of the 63 locations tested indicated a potential larger pollution issue and requiring follow up testing, while 12 sites tested at average but not-poor water quality. One location indicating a contamination source was tracked down by CRK and found to be a broken sewer pipe now reported to City of Atlanta for repairs. The pipe was polluting a branch of Proctor Creek that runs through heavily used Grove Park. Elementary school kids are known to play and fish their balls out of the creek and had it not been for the participants of the Rendezvous, the sewage pipe would likely still be contaminating the creek where children play.

"43 of 63 sites samples met safe water recommendations from the EPA, current indications are that water quality is improving over time as a result of this work, remarkable considering the rapid growth of Atlanta," says CRK's Neighborhood Water Watch Director Mike Meyer. The impact of improvements to these creeks ripple through the communities that abut them and reach far downstream, creating safer places for kids and communities to play, while at the same time safeguarding our indispensable source of drinking water. Thanks to all who came out to participate in our fall Rendezvous. Keep watch for new events coming in 2022 on our events calendar! ■





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Keep up with all of CRK's events and learn more about how to get involved at chattahoochee.org/events.

Patron Celebration

On September 16, 2021, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper hosted the 27th Annual Patron Celebration to commemorate a Return to the River. More than 150 attended the masked event at the Stave Room in Atlanta, while others watched a live virtual broadcast from home. CRK presented The Orvis Company with the River Guardian Award and Newnan Paddlers with the River Steward Award. We celebrated the 20th Anniversary of BacteriALERT, announced the annual Becca K. Powell All Girls Fish, and unveiled CRK's new logo.

Through generous sponsorships, silent auction items, and donations to help us fund the future, we raised more than \$398,000 to work toward a Trash-Free Chattahoochee and fund trash traps, volunteer cleanups, water quality monitoring, and other advocacy projects. We deeply appreciate the event's sponsors including:

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Wild & Scenic Film Festival

JUNE 11, 2022

CRK's annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival inspires environmental activism and a love for nature through film. Plan on coming out to our 2022 festival on Saturday, June 11, to once again gather with our community of outdoor enthusiasts in support of a healthy Headwaters.

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Valley River Rally, West Point, GA

The sixth annual Valley River Rally kicks off the afternoon of Saturday, May 7 with the launch of kayaks, canoes, and paddle boards at Hardley Creek Park for a three-mile paddle along a pristine section of the Chattahoochee River.

Once paddlers reach the City of West Point Downtown River Park, all are welcome to join for a family-friendly party featuring live music, dinner, local craft beer, games, and learning booths. Proceeds from the event support CRK programs like the West Point Lake Floating Classroom and Neighborhood Water Watch.

Thank you to our
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