

Flint RIVERKEEPER®

Points



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

EARLY SPRING 2011

From your RIVERKEEPER® - A Tale of Two Georgias

Since humankind first appeared on earth we have turned to God-given natural resources to provide our basic needs and, later, our accumulation of wealth. There is in fact no wealth accumulated, or basic need met, without the consumption of a natural resource, renewable or nonrenewable.

However, only in the last couple of hundred years, and particularly in the last fifty, has it dawned on us that there are limits to what the earth can provide. To what we can use, take, consume. To the rate at which we can withdraw the sustenance, the wealth.

With that dawning of realization came awareness that we have a responsibility to ourselves, to one another, and for many, to our Creator to

husband and steward those resources such that we do not steal from future generations; so that we do not poison one another; so that we do not carve into one another's basic, property, and other human rights. Out of these realizations have arisen debates over how to comport our behaviors and our society, debates which continue to this day, and debates that became increasingly formalized as we established the laws and rules that we govern ourselves by to fend off the perils of overexploiting our natural resources.

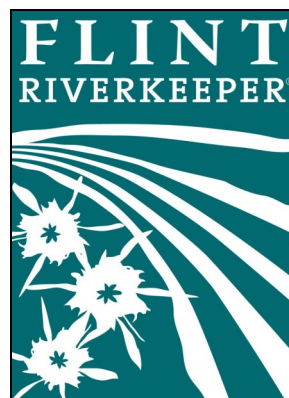
The Clean Water Act, The Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, and in Georgia, the Water Quality Act, the Erosion and

Sedimentation Act, The Water Supply Act and many others, some federal, some state, a few local, some delegated from the feds to the states . . . and, the Rulemaking authorities derived from these Acts delegating responsibilities from the legislatures to the executive branches of the state and federal governments these are the ways and means by which we husband that portion of the earth we call the United States, and our beloved Georgia, by which we take care of one another, and provide for the unborn.

But, if you pay attention to the press, reading carefully not only the words, but between the lines, there are many who think, and act on the
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The Flint Riverkeeper's sole purpose to serve as a steward for this valued waterway and to ensure the future life and health of the river and its tributaries remains certain during these uncertain times. FRk is non-profit 501(c)3 corporation with the goal of protecting the Flint River in its most natural state for future generations to enjoy. Flint Riverkeeper is a fully licensed member of the Waterkeeper® Alliance.

Taste the Flint River Trips: Paddle the Flint!

Explore and understand the natural diversity of the Flint River! Throughout the year, we are offering several paddle trips on different sections of the river for you to discover. We'll be announcing the full *Taste the Flint* schedule within the next few weeks—look for dates on page 4 and upcoming trips in the next newsletter, our Website and on our Facebook page. Bring your own boat or use one of ours for a memorable group trip on lower, middle and upper sections of the Flint!



Photo by Mary Newcomb

Meet Your Flint Riverkeeper Staff



**Gordon Rogers,
Flint Riverkeeper &
Executive Director**

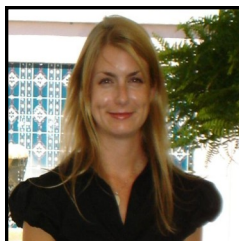
Gordon joined the staff in November '09 after serving as the Satilla

Riverkeeper in SE Georgia for five years. With a background steeped in policy, science and the love of sportfishing, Gordon represents the Flint's best interests at public meetings, community presentations, state and tri-state water discussions. He can be reached at gordon@flintriverkeeper.org or by calling 912.223.6761.



Mary Newcomb, Project Manager

As the first staff member hired, Mary has been coordinating FRk efforts since March 2008. A native of SWGA, she has been an active member of the local non-profit community and water planning discussions for over two-decades. Mary can be reached at mary@flintriverkeeper.org or call her at the office.



Jayme Hill, Director of Development

A resident of the lower watershed, Jayme coordinates membership mailings, grant writing and works with Mary to coordinate outreach events. Working within the non-profit environmental advocacy field for over a decade, she is identifying ways to keep the Flint Riverkeeper "afloat"! Email her at jayme@flintriverkeeper.org or call 229.220.9796.

ABC's of IBTs: Quenching Atlanta's Thirst for Water

The thirst for water to suit the needs of Metro Atlanta's population and industries is strong and solutions are being sought throughout the entire state.

Interbasin transfers, the practice of using water from one waterway, treating it and then returning the water to another waterway is dramatically altering the natural flows of our rivers. The threat of new reservoirs, with specific interest in the Flint River water-

shed, continues to dominate a slate of impractical solutions to quench the thirst of our state's largest metropolitan area. Recently, the Department

**The Upper Flint River
is severely impacted
by interbasin
transfers**

of Natural Resources Board adopted an administrative rule that does NOT require DNR staff to

properly evaluate the effects of inter-

basin transfers on Georgia's rivers. There are solutions to Georgia's water needs and Flint Riverkeeper® works to promote the most efficient, cost-saving and feasible means to these and other problems that affect the Flint, while representing the best interests of the upstream and downstream users. Whether it is legislative or administrative action, you can always count on FRk to keep you informed about the quality and quantity of water flowing in the Flint and her tributaries.

New Coal Plants in South Georgia?

With three proposed coal-fired power generation facilities for South Georgia, FRk along with a host of citizens and ally organizations, are closely monitoring regulatory, administrative and legal actions concerning the siting, construction and operation of these facilities. The combustion (burning) of coal produces a number of air pollutants and causes millions of gallons of river water daily to be

lost through evaporation. The negative health impacts of coal combustion include high levels of soot, nitrous oxides, sulfur oxides to be emitted into our air affecting respiratory and heart functions; high levels of mercury in our fish that when ingested remains in our bodies and can cause neurological defects, especially in fetuses; and the by-product of coal combustion, "coal ash", is laden with cancer-causing

heavy metals that remain in our environment for centuries. In addition, the soot and other emissions compete directly with existing economic engines, particularly prescription burns, so important to our forestry and agricultural businesses. FRk has undertaken legal action to appeal the permit for the Longleaf Energy facility in Early County. We continue to oppose Plant Washington near Sandersville and Plant Ben Hill in the county of the same name.

Your Financial Support is Support Flint RIVERKEEPER®

We ask you to give a generous tax-deductible donation today, to make certain one of Georgia's most treasured waterways can be saved for current and future generations. To make a donation, go to www.flintriverkeeper.org OR make checks payable to the Flint RIVERKEEPER® and mail with this form to 211 N. Jefferson Street, Ste. 8, Albany GA 31701, or return this form with your credit card information. The Flint Riverkeeper is a 501c3 charitable organization. THANK YOU for your support!

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

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Membership Levels: (please indicate giving level)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> River Friend \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River Steward \$5000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate \$2500
(suggested minimum) |

Credit Card type: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMX ☐ DSCV

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____ CSC Number _____

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Billing Address (if different from above): _____

A confirmation email will be sent to you. Please ensure that we have your email address by completely filling out the form above, as well as your other contact information.

*Working to protect the pristine areas and restoration of altered areas,
Flint Riverkeeper® needs your support to strengthen all efforts benefitting the Flint River.*

From Your RIVERKEEPER® *cont'd*

-from pg 1:

thought, that our laws and rules have overreached their purpose, and tread onto sacred American ground, the usurpation of private property rights. And there are those, a greedy lot these, who use such thoughts and feelings to manipulate their fellow citizens to not only rail against government on this issue, but cloud the issue entirely by claiming a "more sane middle ground wherein they seek to balance business and economic growth with a healthy environment".

They may be.

They may not be.

You must judge for yourself. You must choose. You must decide whether or not our natural resources, and the Flint in particular, are receiving adequate care.

And, you must make a choice about whether or not we live under the rule of environmental law, just as we live under the rule of financial laws, traffic laws, and any other laws. You make the choice.

In this issue you will read about the continuing saga of Flint Riverkeeper's and likeminded folks' challenges of Georgia Environmental "Protection" Division's pitifully-written permits to enable new coal-

fired plants in South Georgia, plants that threaten our water, our forestry, and our agriculture, despite the FACT that Georgia's laws provide for much stricter controls.

And, you will read about GAEPD's cynical manipulation of the Rulemaking process to foreclose protections to downstream property owners and water users, by claiming that they are controlling interbasin transfers (IBTs), a manipulation we are firmly opposed to and firmly dedicated to exposing.

At Flint Riverkeeper, we have chosen. We work for those who have decided that the Flint deserves better.

Flint RIVERKEEPER ®

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The Flint Riverkeeper was established in 2008 to address the various issues that are threatening the Flint River and its tributaries. We are working to restore and protect the quality and flow of this immensely valuable resource.

Board of Directors

Dr. Sam Brewton, *Thomaston*

Paul DeLoach, *Andersonville*

Dr. William "Mack" Dallas, *Thomaston*

Glenn Dowling, *Covington*

Stan Lumsden, *Peachtree City*

Mark Redden, *Albany*

Marilyn Royal, *Camilla*

Robin Singletary, *Camilla*

Glenn Sinquefield, *Albany*

Mike Smith, *Macon*

Charles Stripling, *Camilla*

Mark Woodall, *Woodland*

Staff

Gordon Rogers, *Riverkeeper &*

Executive Director

Mary Newcomb, *Project Manager*

Jayne Hill, *Director of Development*

Taste the Flint Paddle Series

Sat., May 7th: Explore the Middle Flint near Montezuma.

Sat.-Sun., September 10th & 11th: Family campout and paddle the Upper Flint near Thomaston.

MORE DATES and TRIP REGISTRATION DETAILS

TO BE ANNOUNCED!

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Spotlight on Business: Bee Natural Honey Pots

Illuminate your life!

Among the artificial, experience the genuine. Surrounded by ubiquity, know the unique. In the midst of mediocrity, find the beautiful. In the heart of turmoil, embrace tranquility! Discover a Honey Pot®!

Handcrafted in Athens, "Honey Pot" luminaries are a perfect gift and look great in any home. Made from local beeswax, your

purchase of "Honey Pots" not only supports this Georgia-based business but it also supports the Flint Riverkeeper. **Bee Natural is donating 25% of the purchase price from your online order to Flint Riverkeeper!** Just mention "Flint" in the notes section of the online order form.

Check out Bee Natural-Home of the Honey Pot at www.beenatural.com



Send your order to orders@beenatural.com

Remember to mention "Flint" to support our programs!

"Eyes on the Upper Flint" Monitor Group Wins Award



Photo by Peg Jones

Congratulations to the "Eyes on the Upper Flint" group of the Georgia Adopt-a-Stream program! Their dedication to monitoring water quality in several tributaries and the mainstem Flint over the past year has earned them the "Rookie of the Year" award. They will be presented this award at the 2011 Adopt-a-Stream Confluence conference taking place in Buford. This group's training was sponsored by Flint Riverkeeper, so let us know if you are interested in setting up a training and monitoring program for your favorite section of the Flint watershed.

Picture: Donald Fowler and Kaitlyn Neel collect water sample data on Pigeon Creek