

Flint RIVERKEEPER®

Points



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FALL 2010

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From your RIVERKEEPER® -Yes, and No

You support Flint Riverkeeper® because you cherish the Flint, need the Flint for your business, want to get to know more about the Flint, or all of the above. You are not all about "no"; you are also about "yes". You believe that Flint Riverkeeper® will fulfill its promise of restoration and protection for your river. We are here to begin to tell you, in this first issue of "Points", how we are fulfilling that promise. The stories in this issue are uplifting, positive, and they are truthful. They are about "yes". But you know and I know that there is another

truth: the Flint River is besieged. To that, we, with you, are here to say "No". Mismanagement of the Flint has increased flooding, and decreased low flows. Dirty runoff is silting in the Flint's shoals. Other pollutants have increased unwanted aquatic growth and made swimming a roulette spin in some areas. Increased usage of the Flint's resources remains on the drawing table, and must be carefully considered at every step. Flint Riverkeeper® is here to address each of these issues in a professional, orderly, and aggressive way, yet

maintain that uplifting, positive approach. In this issue, you will learn about how you can get on the river with us, teaching and showing others about what we are protecting. You will see an opportunity for you to help with water monitoring, which will lead to exposing and correcting pollution problems. You will learn about one of our business partners that is providing smart energy solutions, and therefore help us all save water. And, you will read about two examples of how staff and volunteers reach out to our communities to inform and teach them about why water matters (including a symposium by that very name!). These very positive things are part of the answers to very troubling situations: 1) a lack of detailed public knowledge on water issues, and therefore how folks can get

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Photo by Gina Rogers

Thanks to the FRK Member Volunteers!

FRK was an exhibitor at the Georgia Wildlife Federation's Buckarama in Atlanta and Perry this summer.

Thanks to everyone who stopped by the FRK table to tell stories about river-experiences, fish tales and ask questions about the organization's work.

Special thanks to our GREAT members who volunteered their time at the FRK table: Robert Mumford, Gary Mumford, Todd Braswell, Randy Vining, John Fripp and Harry Van Whiddon.

To find out more, visit: www.gwf.org



Pictured: Robert Mumford & Gary Mumford in Atlanta



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.

Water Matters Forum in Tifton

-Water is our life blood; without water, we perish-

A group of South Georgia concerned citizens joined together to host an all-day forum on all aspects of water issues: availability of quality water, conservation, legislative concerns and citizen advocacy opportunities.

The event took place on Saturday, August 21st in Tifton at the University of Georgia's National Environmentally Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory and featured a variety of experts on a diversity of water-related topics.

The overall goal of the forum was to bring attention to water as a precious resource, seeking to educate, inform, and energize those who attended the event.

The event was well-attended demonstrating the interest of "downstream" communities in the future of South Georgia's water rights compared with state-wide water policy. The *Water Matters* steering committee will continue organizing similar events and empowering citizens about 'water matters'! FRK currently serves as the fiscal sponsor of this group.



Pictured: Karen Hendrix, Neill Herring, Woody Hicks, Gordon Rogers, Helen Rogers, Nap Caldwell and Dr. Jim Hook

A Fleet of Canoes and Kayaks for Flint River Experiences

The FRK extends its gratitude to Brent Troncalli of Outside World outfitters in Dawsonville for assisting us in the purchase of a fleet of canoes, kayaks, a hauling trailer, dry bags, paddles and personal floatation devices.

These boats will be utilized as part of the FRK's Outreach and Education efforts. By offering guided experiences on the river and her tributaries, the FRK works to encourage river stewardship, understanding of the river's ecology and promote the Flint as one of Georgia's most accessible riverways.

FRK has already guided two groups down the river. The first trip included members of the 2010 IGEL who pad-

dled through downtown Albany. The second trip was a group of eight middle school students participating in the HennyPenny Video/Television Production and Training Program. As part of the Southwest Georgia Training program, in association with Jokara-Micheaux Production Studio, this group is creating a documentary about life on the Congo River. Footage from their Flint River trip from Newton to Camilla will be incorporated into the documentary to highlight communities' relationships with river resources.

If you are interested in scheduling a paddle trip for your organization, or more details on the FRK's upcoming

Family River trips, please contact the office at 229.435.2241.



Pictured: Members of the 2010 Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership class paddled the Flint through downtown Albany in July on the charter trip for the FRK's boat fleet.

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Monitors Needed

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (AAS) is a volunteer based waterway monitoring and protection program housed in the NonPoint Source Program in the Water Protection Branch of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Manuals, training, and technical support are provided through Georgia EPD and the more than 50 established Community/Watershed Adopt-A-Stream organizers.

The goals of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream are to (1) increase public awareness of the State's nonpoint source pollution and water quality issues, (2) provide citizens with the tools and training to evaluate and protect their local waterways, (3) encourage partnerships

between citizens and their local government, and (4) collect quality baseline water quality data.

To accomplish these goals, Georgia Adopt-A-Stream encourages individuals and communities to monitor and/or improve sections of streams, wetlands, lakes or estuaries. To better understand the health of our waterways Georgia Adopt-A-Stream offers training and certifications in chemical, biological (macroinvertebrates), bacterial, visual, and amphibian monitoring.

Flint Riverkeeper and Georgia Adopt-A-Stream are coordinating interested citizens

in our watershed to be trained to monitor the Flint and her tributaries for pollution indicators. Partners within the Flint Basin include the Flint Riverquarium, local coordinators such as Dr. William Tietjen and Melissa Martin, and GA AAS State coordinators.

The FRK's goal is to host training events and certify monitors in every portion of the Flint River watershed within the next two years, continuing strong initiatives that are presently occurring.

To find out more about the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program please visit www.georgiaadoptastream.org

Your Financial Support is **VITAL!** 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 _____

Home Phone _____ Work or Cell Phone _____

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

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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.



Photo by Chris Drummond

From your RIVERKEEPER® continued

-from pg 1:

directly engaged; 2) two coal-fired power plants that threaten to evaporate millions of gallons per day from our South Georgia river systems, and threaten our very way of life by competing with our controlled burns, polluting our fish, piling up stocks of poisonous ash, changing our soil chemistry, and aggravating all sorts of health problems from asthma to heart conditions; 3) purposeful and accidental pollution of our swamps, creeks, and

river, which Riverkeeper®s are born, literally, to report and combat. To lack of knowledge, wasteful, selfish development, and blatant pollution, we say "NO". We say "YES" to a clean, flowing Flint, shared in a very fair way by all who need or cherish her. And, we say "thank you" for supporting Flint Rivkeeper®. We are here to serve you.

For the Flint,

Gordon Rogers

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 2nd:

Taste the Flint series family float trip from Newton to Covey Rise Plantation, Camilla— meet at Newton boat launch at 9am. Call the office or check Website for additional details.

Saturday & Sunday, October 2nd-

3rd: Cotton Pickin' Fair in historic Gay GA— all day craft and art event. Volunteers needed for FRk table.

Wednesday, October 13th:

Membership Meeting & Lunch Presentation led by Chairman DeLoach- 11:30-1pm at the Bridge House in Albany; \$10 fee includes lunch.

Friday-Sunday, February 11-13 2011:

GA Wildlife Federation's Great Outdoor Show in Perry, GA. Volunteers needed at FRk's table. Free entry to event with your volunteer shift.

More events will be announced! Check www.flintriverkeeper.org for updates.

Flint RIVERKEEPER ®

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www.flintriverkeeper.org

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*

James E. Butler, Jr., *Columbus*

Paul DeLoach, *Andersonville*

Dr. William "Mack" Dallas, *Thomaston*

Glenn Dowling, *Covington*

Spencer Lee, *Albany*

Stan Lumsden, *Peachtree City*

Mark Redden, *Albany*

Marilyn Royal, *Camilla*

Robin Singletary, *Camilla*

Glenn Sinuefield, *Albany*

Charles Stripling, *Camilla*

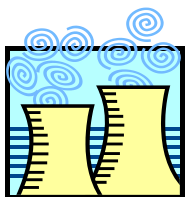
Mark Woodall, *Woodland*

Staff

Gordon Rogers, *Riverkeeper & Executive Director*

Mary Newcomb, *Project Manager*

Jayne Hill, *Director of Development*



Did you know?

The proposed Longleaf coal-burning facility in Early County could use up to 27 million gallons of water per day and only replace 7 million back into the Chattahoochee River. This would further burden the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin "water budget".

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Spotlight on Business: Pye Barker Alternative Energy

Pye-Barker Alternative Energy is the Southeast's most complete source for energy efficiency initiatives and sustainable, renewable energy solutions that will permanently reduce energy related operating expenses and offer a lifetime of savings with short ROI/paybacks. We offer: **Ultra-Efficient Insulating products** to 'tighten up' the building and improve the performance of existing heating/cooling systems. **High-Efficiency Lighting products** to retrofit away from old, energy wasting technology. **Water Harvesting solutions** to reduce dependency and demand on utility-based water sources. **Solar and Geothermal Power Generation options** to reduce dependency and demand on the traditional power grid.



The Flint Riverkeeper appreciates **Pye-Barker Alternative Energy** as one of our corporate donors, but also because of the opportunity offered to Georgia citizens to reduce individual demand on the electrical grid. Each kilowatt of electricity conserved, or generated through alternative innovation, means less river water utilized during the traditional cooling process (steam generation) to produce electricity. With rising electricity costs, the ongoing 'Water Wars' with our neighboring states, and the threat of three proposed power plants in Georgia, it is a critical time for consumers to look at efficiency, conser-

vation and alternative production options.

A recent study by Duke University and GA Tech demonstrates that by employing currently available energy efficiency measures, our state could meet our existing energy demands through 2030. So for the benefit of our valued waterways, the health of GA's citizenry, and cost-savings to you, trust **Pye-Barker Alternative Energy** to chart the course to your Energy independence!

For more information, check the Website at:

www.pyebarker.net, send an inquiry email to: info@pyebarker.net or call 404.569.8629.