

Flint RIVERKEEPER®

Points



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

FALL 2011

From your RIVERKEEPER® - SMALL ROLE, BIG DUTY

Yesterday, a beautiful late-summer day in the headwaters of the Flint, my daughter and I went to a 9/11 memorial service at The Villages Amphitheater in Fayette County. Music sacred and secular was provided by the *Tara Winds* ensemble. Talented vocalists delivered powerful performances. Fellow citizens led us in prayer and probing thinking centered on our society, our place on this earth, and in history. We did more than remember the heroes and victims of that horrible, pivotal day. We considered our role as God's children, as servants to others, as family members, as citizens.

Yesterday, I also read a news article in which an elected official referred to a "phalanx of radical environmental groups" opposing his agenda. Knowing the issue under discussion quite well, I pondered my mental list of these groups. Are these folks and their agenda radical?

And, yesterday, I read a piece on the legacy of 9/11, contrasting the mood of unity in our country in the immediate aftermath of the attack to the current divisiveness. Perhaps not surprisingly, and certainly insightfully, the writer celebrated that "dissent is democracy's life-blood", reminding us that dissent is not only our civic duty, it is a right paid for in blood and other loss, approaching 250 year's worth.

All of this mingled in my mind as I listened to the voice of talented tenor Matt McCord, backed by the *Tara Winds* gently wafting "Hymn to the Fallen" up the hillside. McCord narrated the hymn with our moments of national crisis and triumph, and he caught me by surprise. This was not only a solemn recitation of battles to fend off tyrants and storm shores locked in dictatorial chains. These necessary struggles bracketed a centerpiece: the personal investment and sacrifice of brilliant patriots, businessmen, scholars, attorneys, investors, farmers, at Philadelphia, in our central governing document, the U. S. Constitution. This is WHY we fight, WHY we suffer, WHY we sacrifice: to preserve the integrity and functioning of mutually-agreed-upon governance, so that personal and communal freedom can thrive, side by side, in a functioning, consensual democracy.

I was struck, and then considered our small place in this larger picture. By the grace of God we live in a country where freedom not only rings, but functions, allowing us to work, unfettered, in His garden for others, for the greater good, as servants and stewards. And, what may seem only words is valued worldwide as a shining example. Our constitution establishes and maintains a functional government with three branches. We own a

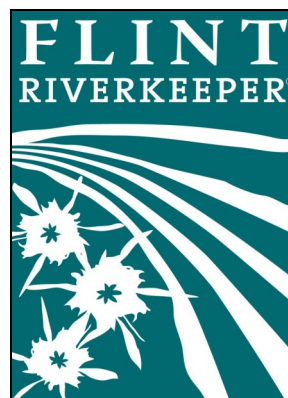
government for and by the people, bought and paid for in blood.

Ownership mandates care and maintenance. You and I, working together as Flint Riverkeeper, play a small role, with a big duty, working the garden, exercising our rights, and pruning the branches. We invest in the soil and in the water, we dissent when abundance and cleanliness are violated, we use executive, legislative, and judicial means to restore and protect our river, and we vote. We are, all together, a phalanx. Are we radical? Yes, in the exact same sense that righting wrongs in the 1700s was radical. Afield, in the legislature, in court, in the voting booth, we are so, so grateful to the Almighty, to those who came before us, and to those who are sacrificing even today, for allowing us to play our small part, shouldering a big duty. To stand idly by would be to massively disrespect creation and those who fought and died for this government and our freedoms.

Thank you for working for your river, and for supporting Flint Riverkeeper.

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The Flint Riverkeeper's sole purpose is 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 a 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.

2011 GA Wildlife Federation Buckarama

Thanks to all the Flint River fisher folks, hunters and recreationalists who stopped at the FRK booth at the Atlanta and Perry Buckaramas. We enjoy hearing your stories and answering questions about the Flint River. We appreciate the hard work and extraordinary coordination of these annual events by the GWF staff.

One of FRK's most dedicated and hardest working volunteers, Randy Vining (www.georgiariverprize.com), speaks with Sonny Webb of Thomaston at the Perry Buckarama.



Spotlight on Business: MillerCoors Brewery

Flint Riverkeeper welcomes MillerCoors Brewery of Albany as a corporate sponsor supporting our efforts to protect and restore the Flint River! A delegation of lower watershed board members and staff were invited to meet MCB executives and give a presentation focused on FRk's mission, programs and facts about the river—including impairments to water flow and water quality. FRk representatives were then given a tour of the brewery by MCB employee David Dixon, EHS Specialist. We learned that over 8.6 million barrels of beer a year are brewed in Albany and shipped to Florida, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and in Georgia. This beer is made from specially-treated water pulled from deep within the Floridian Aquifer by a series of wells and pumps at the facility and is



Opened in 1979 on a reclaimed U.S. Army air base, Albany Brewery today provides jobs to 600 dedicated employees at this community-conscious facility 145 miles southwest of Atlanta.
www.millercoors.com



David Dixon explains to FRk delegation an environmentally-friendly reuse process utilized by MCB-Albany. Pictured: D. Dixon, R. Singletary and P. DeLoach.

touted as some of the cleanest raw water of the eight MillerCoors-operated breweries. Each brewery treats the water, no matter the raw quality, to ensure a consistent and authentic taste for each of its beer recipes from each of its breweries. MCB-Albany is committed to conserving resources and reducing waste through recycling and repurposing procedures. September is MillerCoors' Great Water Month and the brewery's employees are partnering with Flint Riverkeeper to remove litter from a section of the river near the facility. MillerCoors CEO Tom Long will be visiting the Albany brewery and participating in the river cleanup. FRk applauds the ongoing sustainability efforts of MCB leadership and sincerely appreciates the opportunity to work with this corporation located in the Flint River watershed.

Save the Date! Upcoming Events

Volunteer Opportunity & Meetings

Saturday, Oct. 1st & 2nd:

Cotton Pickin' Fair, Gay, GA

www.cpfair.org

Rated as one of the Top 20 destinations by the Southeast Tourism Society!

We need volunteers at the FRk booth, email gordon@flintriverkeeper.org if you are interested in coming to the fair with FRk!

Wednesday, Oct. 5th:

FRk Lower Watershed Membership Meeting (members and non-members invited)

11:30am-1pm at the Bridge House, Albany lunch, presentation & awards \$10

Friday, Nov. 11th:

FRk Upper Watershed Membership Meeting (members and non-members invited)
11:30- 1pm at the Thomaston-Upson County Archives, lunch, awards & presentation \$10

Float the Flint this Fall

-Reservations required: call 229.435.2241-

Saturday, Oct 8th: Lower Flint

9am: Meet at Hwy 37 Bridge/ Newton Boat Ramp. 4+ hour trip to Covey Rise Plantation (Camilla) Bring a lunch.

Saturday, Nov. 12th: Upper Flint

8am: Meet at the Hwy 74 Bridge. 7+ hour trip to take-out (specific location, near Thomaston, will depend on water levels & announced week before trip)

FRk members who bring their own canoe \$15

FRk members who need to borrow canoe \$25

Non-members who need to borrow canoe \$45

Non-members who bring their own canoe \$35

(Non-member cost includes one-year of FRk membership)

*pricing include kayaks, too

Flint River Cleanups

Saturday, Oct. 8th: Bainbridge

Rivers Alive & Keep Decatur County Beautiful, meet @ Boat Basin, 9am
—Call 229.246.3611 for more info—

Saturday, Oct. 22nd: Albany

Rivers Alive & Keep Albany-Dougherty Beautiful, meeting location and clean-up areas TBA
—Call 229.430.5257 for more info—



Photo courtesy of KADB

Contact FRk at 229.435.2241 to RSVP

Shuttle service is provided for these floats.

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

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____ / ____ CSC Number _____

Name as it appears on card: _____

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.

Take Action NOW to Protect the Flint's Future

As the 2012 General Assembly legislative session approaches (January'12), FRK is already concerned about the negative consequences of a proposed bill. HB 397 (sponsored by Rep. Jay Powell, R-Camilla) would limit the rights of litigants to obtain records from state agencies under the state's Open Records Act. This action would adversely impact the rights of citizens by not allowing a litigant to file a records request with a state agency if those records are for use in a court case. This bill, if passed in its current form, would undermine the legal ability to hold our state governmental agencies' accountable for their actions, or inactions (in cases of lax enforcement of pollution permits.)

TAKE ACTION!

Contact your State Representative NOW and request that YOUR CITIZEN RIGHTS be protected with a "NO" vote on any legislation that limits your ability to have access to and utilize public records.

Find your State Representative's contact information at www.legis.ga.gov



"The Nook" where the Flint River and Achumpkee Creek converge is at the end of a 3 1/2 mile road in a private community called, Trillium Point and is located on the southernmost point of Upson County. The house was built in 1991 by a master craftsman from Greece and is genuine a work of art. This is a place to truly unwind from the cares of the world. This is a Retreat in the purest sense of the word and is secluded and private. The Nook sits on 5 acres with a breathtaking view of the shoals and the sounds of tumbling water. The house is built so as to bring the outside in and one may get the sense of living in a tree house. The massive fireplace is built out of Pine Mountain stone and provides a wonderful ambience from the warmth of a fire throughout the winter season. You must see for yourself to discover all the other amenities. The address: 2 Old Minor Road, Culloden, GA, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, offered at \$375,000.



Order your Honey-pot luminary from Bee Natural with this link:

<http://tinyurl.com/bnflint>.

25% of the proceeds of your order are sent Flint Riverkeeper!

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*

Paul DeLoach, *Andersonville*

Dr. William "Mac" Dallas, *Thomaston*

Glenn Dowling, *Covington*

Elliott Jones, P.E., *Atlanta*

Stan Lumsden, *Peachtree City*

Brown Moseley, *Bainbridge*

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 Smith, *Director of Development*

Unique hunting land for sale

449.5 acres in Talbot County, directly on Flint River that borders Big Lazer Wildlife Management Area.

Great for deer and turkey hunting, camping, and fishing. The property has hardwoods in a creek bottom, pines and pasture land. For more information, please call Ben Parham (706)302-9958.

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FRk Hosts State-wide Leaders on Flint River Trip

A visiting group of thirty Georgia leaders from agriculture, forestry, business, education, environmental organizations, government and civic groups participating in the 10th Annual Class of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (IGEL) experienced the beauty of the lower Flint River on a canoe and kayak trip on July 12th.

The group, led by Flint Riverkeeper Board Vice-Chair, CoveyRise Plantation owner and IGEL host Robin Singletary, witnessed first-hand the cultural aspects of the Flint River, as well as the natural beauty and phenomena of a surface and spring-fed river.

As water policy becomes increasingly more vital for leaders across the state to adopt and implement, this paddle trip is an unique opportunity for IGEL class members to understand how vital the Flint's water quantity and quality of flow are to the ecology, economy and culture of South Georgia, and the unique interconnections of its surface and subterranean hydrology.

"Flint Riverkeeper probably knows the river better than anyone, but more importantly they are typical citizens who have educated themselves on the importance of water to South Georgia and North Georgia,"

said Rob Williams, co-facilitator of the IGEL Program and Senior Fellow at the Center for Ethics and Corporate Responsibility at the Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.

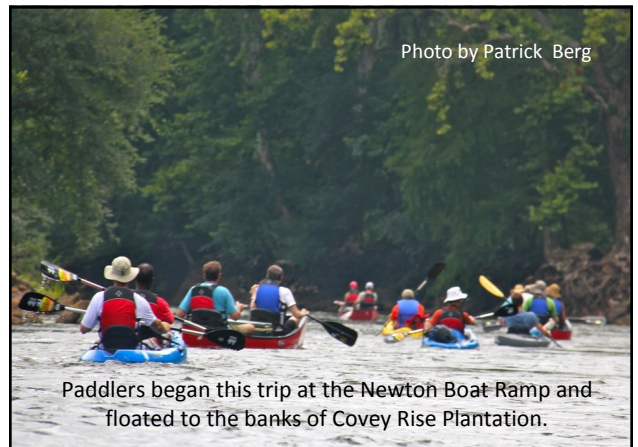


Photo by Patrick Berg

Paddlers began this trip at the Newton Boat Ramp and floated to the banks of Covey Rise Plantation.