

# FOREST NEWS

Georgia ForestWatch Quarterly Newsletter ..... Autumn 2005



Who's watching your forest?

## Join Us for a ForestWatcher's Retreat !

By Wayne Jenkins : Executive Director

Observing a time honored tradition of gathering once a year for talks, walks and fellowship, the membership, Board of directors and staff of Georgia ForestWatch will come together at Camp Wahsega, north of Dahlonega Georgia in the Chattahoochee National Forest on October 7-9. Attendees will be treated to educational forest workshops, hikes and music and have the opportunity to meet and mingle with their board and staff members.

The theme for the event is the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threat and what is being done to "Save Our Hemlocks". James Johnson, Forest Health Coordinator for the Georgia Forestry Commis-

sion will give the keynote presentation covering this important issue. Other presentations include talks by Melissa Walker, author of "Living on Wilderness Time" (available for purchase and signing), and Wayne Jenkins, executive director of GFW, who will present an overview of the organization and the programs we are implementing for 05-06. Jess Riddle, our old growth sleuth, who has identified over 11,000 acres of ghost (unidentified) old growth forest across the Chattahoochee National Forest will give a presentation covering his work, and Sara Francisco will give an overview of the National Environmental

(Continued on Page 5)

## Save our Hemlocks Campaign Launched

By Wayne Jenkins : Executive Director

Georgia ForestWatch has embarked on the largest fundraising campaign in its history! Developments over the summer are moving us closer to having a laboratory for rearing specific predatory beetles for hopefully saving remnant stands of hemlocks across the Chattahoochee National Forest. Most GFW members are aware of the threat the hemlock woolly adelgid poses to our native hemlocks and our efforts to bring together the most knowledgeable parties to define and foster a solution. (See "The Clock is Ticking", in the Spring 2005 Newsletter available online at

[www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org))

The University of Georgia, in early July, committed to hosting and overseeing the management of the much needed lab, setting the stage for our fundraising efforts. Together UGA and GFW have pre-applied for a matching grant from the National Forest Foundation's 'Matching Awards Program' which would match, dollar for dollar all monies raised up to \$125,000 for funding the lab's first year. We should know whether we will be invited to apply with a full proposal sometime near the end of

(Continued on Page 5)

## In This Issue

From the Director.....	2
Get Out(side)!	3
Why I Joined GFW .....	4
Sudden Oak Death, The Other Shoe ? .....	6
Daughter of the Appalachians .....	7
Forest Service Contact Info .....	7
Membership Form .....	8
Stop I-3! Update and More Background.....	8
Human Fire Evidence in Southern Appalachia ...	10
Volunteers .....	10
Welcome new Board Members .....	11
Rich Mountain "Road" Lawsuit Settled .....	12
Over the Wild Green Yonder.....	13
Georgia Chestnuts Down, But Not Out.....	14
Political Leader Contact Info .....	14
ForestWatch Hiring .....	15

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Looking Back, Thinking Ahead ...

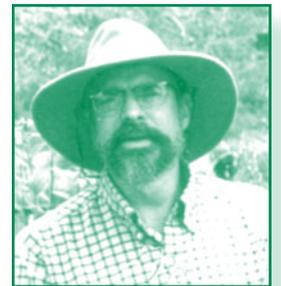
Well, it's been a little over a year since I began serving as your new Executive Director and I thought this would be a good time to consider this past year, what we have accomplished and where we're headed. Time has truly flown since last September when I stepped into this new role and wondered, "What will this be like?" Over time the answer revealed what can be accomplished when a passionate, knowledgeable and bright bunch of folks work together toward common goals.

As an organization we have grown. Our board of directors has increased by two with one member stepping down and three new folks coming on board. We are excited by the talent and concern for our forests and Georgia ForestWatch these new folks bring, and appreciate their commitment. We are presently interviewing two more likely board candidates. Three board directors participated in a workshop this spring with the executive director, hosted by the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) which was designed to address the challenges of staff and board roles in nonprofit organizations and other important org stuff. I am very pleased to have had such support from these directors and to have attended the earlier five day training with ICL. Our board committees are addressing the vital areas of fundraising, personnel and planning and we are working with a consultant provided through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta for improving the organizational structure we need in place for the long term. It is exciting and fulfilling to work with this special group of forest-loving volunteers, who give so much of their personal time in service to GFW, it's members, our forests and I do not think this too much of a stretch, all the citizens of north Georgia who benefit from living near and using this treasure; the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.

After being hired in the fall of 2004 I hired James Leitess to cover the manifold inner-office duties associated with our work. He has morphed into areas of assistance and expertise that have stabilized and created a stronger more efficient functioning office. Bookkeeping and membership systems are in place, the website, though still not perfect is more functional and accurate, and that friendly voice on the line when you call the office will most likely be James. He is also growing our hike and volunteer programs, managing the newsletter and covering many other things too numerous to mention. I am grateful to have the level of assistance and support James provides and not sure how I got by before he arrived.

Our District Leader (DL) Program is strong; ten DLs working on seven districts and engaged in responding to Forest Service proposals. District Leader response to poorly conceived Forest Service initial scoping notices has resulted in the Forest Service tabling several questionable vegetation management projects. In addition, the Forest Service is showing some real concern over whether the true goals and spirit of the Forest Management Plan are actually being addressed. That's progress! Only a few of these veg management projects have gone forward, with GFW bringing a successful appeal and settlement of one particularly bad Early Successional Habitat project on the Tallulah District. Our DLs continue to report on illegal ATV activity across the forest as the Forest Service struggles along with too few Law Enforcement Officers and an increase in attempted closures of illegal and damaging routes. The proposed permanent closure of the Anderson Creek ATV area is a direct result of GFW District Leader and staff cumulative efforts at identifying an egregious problem, documenting it and continuing to bring it to the attention of media and Forest Service officials. And, once again, we have been successful in killing a bill in the State Legislature's Motor Vehicle Committee that would have allowed ATVs on public roads throughout Georgia. Despite the Forest Service somehow finding \$300K for rebuilding a portion of the old logging road known as the "old road" or Rich Mountain Road that lies to the north of the boundary of the Rich Mountain Wilderness, GFW has successfully gotten the road closed, except for a short period for hunting access in the fall. This closure has ended the illegal four wheel drive/ATV free-for-all that once characterized this nine mile road of silt and destruction. My hat is off to our volunteer DLs, these stalwart defenders of our public lands!

Our Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) efforts have garnered a good deal of effort this year and those efforts have led us and our many concerned partners to the brink of having a predatory beetle lab at the University of Georgia for rearing several species for research on controlling HWA across our forested mountains. Fundraising for the lab has already begun and we have great expectations for receiving matching funds, up to \$125K



*Wayne Jenkins*

(Continued on Page 4)

## Get Out(side)!

By James Leitess : Assistant Director

Contact: james@gafw.org

### Restoration tours, GPS/Software tutorials, ridge hikes, Oh My!

The fall 2005 outings and events schedule is full of opportunities to get outside, spend time with like-minded folks, and learn more about the rich ecology of our region and the tools we use to keep a “watch” on it. Read on to get a glimpse of the upcoming outings and be sure to keep the Events Calendar on the back page nearby when trying to figure out what to do next weekend. For more info and last minute details go to [www.gafw.org/hikes.htm](http://www.gafw.org/hikes.htm).

Though not a ForestWatch event, we endorse the Lumpkin Coalition in their work to raise awareness and funds to help ‘Save Our Hemlocks’. On Saturday October 1st they will be hosting HemlockFest, an all day music event at Three Sisters Vineyard near Dahlonega Georgia. We encourage you to attend for the fun, for the music and for the forest. (more info: [www.lumpkincoalition.org](http://www.lumpkincoalition.org))

On Saturday October 22nd District Leader Jim Walker will lead a hike on Grassy Mountain. This western-most peak in the Cohutta Range offers exceptional views and the opportunity to see some impressive stands of old growth. For those already familiar with the interior of the Cohutta Wilderness this trip is of interest due to the slightly different plant communities thriving on the western edge, outside the wilderness area.

The following Saturday, October 29th, Botanist Tom Govus will lead a hike to Springer Mountain. Springer is the official southern terminus of the world-famous Appalachian Trail (AT). Join Tom and other hikers at the AT trailhead and stand on the spot where “thru-hikers” start the annual 2,168 mile trip north to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. This southern-most section of the AT is known for its beauty and well-built camper’s shelters.

Fall is a great time to take a ridge hike in north Georgia; seeing great distances is much easier when the trees have lost their leaves and the atmosphere has less humidity. On Saturday November 5th hike leader Catherine Leitess will lead this moderate hike. As with all of the outings for Fall 2005, please check the Georgia ForestWatch website for the latest hike info: ([www.gafw.org/hikes.htm](http://www.gafw.org/hikes.htm)).

A “Forest Restoration Tour” is in store for those hearty souls who join Georgia ForestWatch board member Jim Sullivan and District Leaders Wally Warren and Dudley Sisk for a hike along the middle fork of the Broad River on November 11th. Forest restoration is a developing science and an art; and the Broad River area is a good venue for seeing the different

(Continued on Page 5)

## Contact Information Georgia ForestWatch

[www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org)

15 Tower Rd. Ellijay, GA 30540  
706-635-TREE (8733)

Georgia Forestwatch is a 501(c)(3)  
Nonprofit educational corporation.

Forest News edited by Wayne Jenkins  
Production and Layout by James Leitess

### STAFF

Wayne Jenkins, Executive Director  
James Leitess, Assistant Director

### BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Sanders, President  
Joe Gatins, Secretary  
Lori Jenkins, Treasurer  
Kees de Vente  
David Govus  
Peg Griffith  
Sarah Linn  
Ida Long  
James Sullivan

### ADVISORS

Marshall Burke  
Butch Clay  
Martha Ezzard  
John Fritchie  
Bob Kibler

### DISTRICT LEADERS

**Armuchee Ranger District:**  
Bob Smiles 404-259-4947

**Brasstown Ranger District:**  
Howard Markel 770-781-5418  
Dennis Stansell 706-747-5892

**Chattooga Ranger District:**  
Wally Warren 706-778-2635  
Dudley Sisk 706-754-0955

**Cohutta Ranger District:**  
Wayne Jenkins 706-276-7913  
David Govus 706-276-2512

**Oconee National Forest:**  
Larry Winslett 706-864-2661 (w)

**Tallulah Ranger District:**  
Joe Gatins 706-782-9944

**Toccoa Ranger District:**  
Jim Walker 706-273-3465  
David Govus 706-276-2512

## Why I Joined the Watch

By Jim Sanks : GFW Member

Where I come from, “State Champion” refers to an outstanding sports team, and folks will tell you genius is what you call someone with a darn good head on his shoulders. My recent encounter with ForestWatch tells me the former can be a really tall tree, and, of course, the latter to be part of a lengthy Latin locution for naming a plant.

For me, green was green was green until on a Georgia ForestWatch-sponsored hike this summer naturalist Mark Warren told me which green things I could eat and which green things I couldn't (chewing on the Rhododendron is more than just a bad idea). And who would have guessed that twisting and braiding tulip bark would yield such a strong piece of rope?

Highlights from other outings included a view from Brasstown Bald and the rapids of Amicalola Creek. With folks from ForestWatch, I experienced first-hand the girth—six outstretched arms?—of Gilmer's Gennett Poplar on a mighty short hike to one of Georgia's mightiest trees.

But there began muted warnings. Cut and burned into the trunk of the poplar were scores of initials, human claims to the tree. In a dark conversation that same day we also learned how humans had introduced the invasive species that is devastating hemlock trees across the Southeast.

The human factor stirred my mind on a ForestWatch canoe trip one month ago. As light rain fell at dusk, our group eyed a footprint that was the memory of a playing otter. In the distance was the dampened moan of traffic on the Dahlonega Bypass: a reminder of the imminent footprint of man.

I chanced upon my first ForestWatch outing on the suggestion of a friend. A good hike, I thought, and in the company of ecologically-minded others. With kindly interpretation along the way, I find more. There is direction and an understanding there's something worth fighting for, even a sense of mission. It's a serious good time. ♦

## From the Director, (Continued From Page 2)

from the National Forest Foundation for getting this lab off the ground. This is a great step forward. I sometimes wonder where we would be on this issue if GFW members, board and staff had not pushed over the last year towards this goal.

Let's see, what else is going on with GFW? We have hosted 15 hikes, so far this year with a total of 120 forest lovers 'getting out'. Membership is up from around 470 last September to over 600 now. Our spring Wild & Woolly Wine Tasting & Native Plant Sale was a huge success and we are looking forward to our first Member's Retreat in several years at Camp Wahsega the weekend of October 7-9. Join us!

So, what lies ahead for GFW? Having already launched our fundraising campaign for support of the proposed HWA lab at UGA, we look forward to being invited by the National Forest Foundation for the matching grant needed for getting the lab into production. Presently we are also seeking to hire a professional forester to work with us and the Forest Service to help define what restoration of degraded forest stands on public lands should be and how they should be monitored.

Restoration and the creation of early successional habitat may affect hundreds of thousands of forest acres over the 10-15 year life of the Forest Management Plan and we believe where, why and how this work is accom-

plished must be defined and scrutinized. Our District Leaders will continue their on-the-ground and scoping oversight of Forest Service projects, illegal ATV activity, and monitoring other threats to the people's forests. The GFW Board and staff will continue to work toward growing and strengthening our organization both internally, financially and for the work before us and that to come.

It is obvious and gratifying to me that the work of Georgia ForestWatch is important and well worth all the effort, money, time, passion and thought that so many GFW members, patrons, volunteers, board members and staff put into protecting and preserving these national forests in Georgia. Together we are making a difference. Thanks for all you do for our forests and here's to an even better year to come! ♦



## Join Us for a ForestWatcher's Retreat, (Continued from Page 1)

Policy Act (NEPA), its importance and current issues. Talks on two important Forest Service management issues, Restoration and Prescribed Fire will be presented by James Sullivan and Jim Walker. There will be old time fiddle/banjo music (pre-bluegrass) by the Yellow Cats, concurrent hikes and a stream monitoring workshop plus free time to hang out with the GFW board members, staff and fellow forest lovers.

As in retreats of yore, sleeping accommodations will be bunk style by gender and plenty of good food. If you haven't

already signed up, go to our web site at [www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org) and click on **2005 Member Retreat** or call our office for more information and to register. What better way to enjoy the fine fall weather of the north Georgia mountains than in the company of your fellow ForestWatchers!!! Looking forward to seeing you there. ♦

## Get Out(side)!, (Continued From Page 3)

restoration issues in place. Meet at 10am at the Lake Russell Wildlife Management Area Check Station. Bring lunch and good walking shoes.

New ForestWatch volunteer Claudia Burgess will be leading a hike into the Rich Mountain area right near the Georgia ForestWatch office on November 19th. Claudia promises "panoramic views from a trail less traveled, and moderate to heavy breathing, but no extreme terrain. This will be an all day hike so bring lunch,snacks, raingear, cameras/binoculars etc...

Once again, former Georgia ForestWatch Executive Director Brent Martin is leading the faithful into the Kelly Ridge wilderness area. On December 3rd Brent will lead a hike into one of the largest wild areas in north Georgia. See [www.gafw.org/hikes.htm](http://www.gafw.org/hikes.htm) for more information.

Georgia ForestWatch District Leader and Director David Govus spends a lot of time in the woods "ground truthing"

the Forest Service and just keeping an eye on how our forests are being managed. For those interested in learning how to use the tools of a Georgia ForestWatch District Leader, join David on December 10th. A tutorial on GPS/Map/Compass, and how we use "Topo!", the preferred map software from National Geographic Society will be held, plus David will include a short field demonstration (a moderate hike).

One of the easiest to access stands of old growth in north Georgia is at Mill Creek. Executive Director Wayne Jenkins will lead an easy-to-moderate hike on December 17th. The terrain is not extreme but there is a decent bit of elevation gain/loss on this hike, so be prepared for some mild cardio if you come along. We will take our time.

Please contact the office to assure your spot in an outing. Contact info for the GFW office: 706 635 8733 –or- [info@gafw.org](mailto:info@gafw.org) Detailed event info can be found on:

[www.gafw.org/hikes.htm](http://www.gafw.org/hikes.htm) ♦

## Save our Hemlock Campaign Launched, (Continued From Page 1)

September but have already begun our fundraising campaign for the lab in preparation for taking full advantage of the NFF grant for raising the needed total of \$250,000.

Many concerned partners are assisting in this effort. The USDA Forest Service, Georgia Forestry Commission and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources are government partners along with our conservation friends at Georgia Wildlife Federation, Upper Chattahoochee River Keeper, Georgia Conservancy and the Lumpkin Coalition. As knowledge and concern over the potential loss of our hemlocks spread, we expect this list of supporters to grow. Our efforts to date, through one mail appeal to our membership and early educational work for the HWA Campaign has a committed total of over \$21,000. Way to go ForestWatchers! More fundraising events and presentations are planned as we work with our conservation partners for meeting the goal.

The necessary Decision Notice for the Environmental Assessment (EA) defining the full treatment program for HWA across the Chattahoochee National Forest was signed in late August, completing the steps required by the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and allowing the forest service to begin implementation. ForestWatch played a significant role in the NEPA process in reviewing the overall program and identifying important stands across the forest for inclusion in the overall strategy. The Decision Notice can be found at [www.gafw.org/200508-hwa-decisionnotice.pdf](http://www.gafw.org/200508-hwa-decisionnotice.pdf). On this issue GFW and the Forest Service are working together for the best outcome to a daunting problem.

How can you help? Learn more about the problem by visiting GFW's web-site at [www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org) and click on HWA Threat Background Info. Share the challenge we face with friends and family. Take a hike or camp along one of the many hemlock shaded mountain streams on your national forest and experience this beautiful forest community before it becomes heavily impacted by HWA. Support our fundraising efforts by giving generously to the Save Our Hemlocks Campaign. Together we will do all we can for our premier mountain evergreen. ♦

## Sudden Oak Death; The Other Shoe?

By Sarah Linn : Board Member

ForestWatchers are well aware of the threat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid poses to an important tree species in the Georgia forest. Unfortunately more threats are looming, among them Sudden Oak Death (“SOD”). In the mid-1990’s, when oak and tanoak trees began dying in northern coastal California, the then-unidentified syndrome was named Sudden Oak Death. Tens of thousands of trees of various oak species are now dead – it is estimated that 80% of oaks in infected areas are lost.

The cause was traced to a fungus-like pathogen named *Phytophthora ramorum*, which has since been identified in 59 other trees and shrubs, including maple, beech, buckeye, rhododendron, camellia, viburnum, mountain laurel, blueberry, witchhazel, big leaf maple and huckleberry. These plants are referred to as “foliar hosts” of the pathogen, to which it is not thought to be lethal but which serve as vectors of SOD, contributing to its spread.

Other species of *Phytophthora* are familiar as “root rot” and as the cause of the potato famine in Ireland. *Phytophthora ramorum* however, attacks above ground. Its spores are easily moved short distances by rain splash and run-off, contaminated tools and shoes or clothing. It is moved greater distances in contaminated nursery stock, soils and mulches, and possibly rivers and streams. A similar pathogen has been identified in Europe.

Efforts to quarantine *P. ramorum* in order to protect Georgia’s native oaks has failed. The Georgia Forestry Commission reports that between March 2003 and March 2004, 59,000 potentially-infected plants were shipped into Georgia. Monrovia nursery shipped 28,000 potentially-infected plants, primarily camellias, rhododendron, syringe (lilac) and viburnum, from California to independent garden centers in Georgia. In addition, other west coast nurseries shipped potentially-infected stock to Lowe’s (rhododendron) and Home Depot (30,000 rhododendron and pieris). Georgia’s Agriculture Commissioner, Tommy Irvin, reported that Georgia nurseries were cooperative in separating out the suspect plants when notified of the potential infection. The Georgia Department of Agriculture intercepted 10,000 of these potentially infected plants, but Georgia Forestry Commission reports that the other 49,000 were sold to the public before the state was informed of the infected shipments. No one knows how many of those were actually infected, but aggressive testing showed that the overwhelming majority

of infected plants originated from the Monrovia nursery.

Spores present on infected plants in the understory can be easily disbursed in the environment. *P. ramorum* is lethal to at least ten oak species native to eastern forests. The spores penetrate the bark, enters the vascular system and girdles the tree, cutting off the flow of water and food between the roots and leaves. It produces large reddish-brown to tar-black bleeding cankers on the lower trunk and stems. Cankered trees can survive only a few years, and once crown dieback begins, leaves brown and drop in a matter of weeks—hence the “sudden” in the disease’s common name.

Infected foliar hosts exhibit leaf and twig damage, such as leaf spots or lesions, needle and tip blight, cankers and shoot-tip dieback; therefore, any Monrovia camellias, rhododendron, viburnum or lilac that were purchased in the last several years and exhibit these symptoms are cause for concern. *P. ramorum* in these hosts cannot be diagnosed visually, because the symptoms look like many common diseases found on plants in Georgia. Laboratory diagnosis is required to determine whether *P. ramorum* is present. The Georgia Department of Agriculture recommends that suspect plants NOT be moved to avoid potential further spread. Instead, contact your County Extension agent regarding testing and specific removal instructions. A Monrovia spokesman said that four more infected plants have been found planted in Georgia landscapes in 2005 that are believed to have been purchased from Georgia nurseries in the fall of 2004. Monrovia entered into a compliance agreement with US Department of Agriculture in March 2005, and is now permitted to ship nursery stock to all 50 states.

Oaks are the last major nut-bearing species in the eastern forest following the demise of the American Chestnut, and so loss of these trees would have a critical impact on wildlife and forest ecosystems. Georgia has 9.8 million acres of oak forest. Fortunately the Sudden Oak Death pathogen has been found only in planted woody ornamentals such as camellias and rhododendron, thus far. If *P. ramorum* is released into the forest, it is hoped that in the warm climate of much of Georgia will slow the spread of the pathogen. However, no data indicate that it cannot live here, and the cooler forests of the north Georgia mountains may be highly susceptible.

While fungicides can temporarily suppress the pathogen in foliar hosts like rhododendron, there is no known cure for Sudden Oak Death once an oak tree is infected. In order to

keep it from entering our landscapes and forests, great care must be exercised in the purchase of any potential host plants to be added to the landscape. This means finding out the origin of the plants we buy (think “locally grown”) and refusing to purchase any potential hosts that show symptoms of *P. ramorum* infection.

Georgia ForestWatch will continue to monitor this potentially devastating threat. A wealth of information on Sudden Oak Death is available on the internet. For more information, see [www.na.fs.fed.us/SOD](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/SOD), [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org), [www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorurum](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/pramorurum), [www.invasive.org/sod/sod.cfm](http://www.invasive.org/sod/sod.cfm), [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org). ♦

## Daughter of the Appalachians-

By Jenny Hobson: GFW Member/Volunteer

The words of this song from the folk-rock group, Eddie from Ohio, not only amused me but also served to validate my impression of

the differences between our two magnificent North American mountain systems. After living in the Appalachians for over twenty years, I was enjoying my fifth visit to the Rockies where my daughter now lives, perched at ninety-two hundred feet above sea level.

Looking at the geology of the two areas, it's easy to see why there is such a striking contrast in what we see this far along into the Cenozoic Era. The birth of the Appalachians, which presently stretch from Quebec to Alabama, occurred some 540 million years before that of the Rockies which run from British Columbia to New Mexico. Plate tectonics and the resulting subduction, uplifting, folding, faulting, and volcanic action built these systems, and wind, water and ice sculpted them into

**You think you'll find some mountains in western Colorado  
Fifty weeks of snowy peaks is where you're gonna be  
But babe the Rocky Mountains are gradually eroding  
The hills of Coors are nothing more than Blue Ridge wannabes**

the glorious forms we now experience.

Five hundred and forty million more years of grinding ice, howling

winds, torrential rains and flowing waters have worn away the high places and filed the sharp, rocky edges of our Appalachians, which are thought to have been perhaps taller than the Rockies in the beginning.

While I appreciate the majesty and muscle of the Rockies, I am a daughter of the Appalachians. Time and the forces of erosion have, in addition to softening the profile of our peaks, joined with rocks, minerals, plants and animals to create a loamy mattress. This soil nurtures a wondrous variety of trees and herbaceous plants which in turn nurture me. I am always filled with joy on my return to these old mountains, to the gentle curves of Earth's bosom in our Appalachians. ♦

### District Offices of the Chattahoochee/Oconee National Forest

**Ranger, Debbie Whitman**

USFS Armuchee & Cohutta  
Ranger Districts  
401 GI Maddox Parkway  
Chatsworth, GA 30705  
[dwhitman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dwhitman@fs.fed.us)  
706-695-6736

**Ranger, Alan Polk**

USFS Brasstown Ranger District  
1181 Highway 515  
P.O. Box 198, Blairsville, GA 30512  
[apolk@fs.fed.us](mailto:apolk@fs.fed.us)  
706-745-6928

**Ranger, Dave Jensen**

**Deputy Ranger, Scott Hill**  
USFS Chattooga Ranger District  
200 Highway - 197 North  
P.O. Box 1960  
Clarkesville, GA 30523  
706-754-6221

**Ranger, Bill Nightingale**

USFS Oconee National Forest  
1199 Madison Road  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
[bnighringale@fs.fed.us](mailto:bnighringale@fs.fed.us)  
706-485-7110

**Ranger, Dave Jensen**

USFS Talullah Ranger District  
825 Highway 441 South  
P.O. Box 438  
Clayton, GA 30525  
[djensen@fs.fed.us](mailto:djensen@fs.fed.us)  
706-782-3320

**Ranger, Alan Polk**

**Deputy Ranger, Tina Tilley**  
USFS Toccoa Ranger District  
6050 Appalachian Highway  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513  
706-632-3031

### Forest Service Contacts

**Kathleen Atkinson, Forest Supervisor**

USDA Forest Service  
Chattahoochee - Oconee National Forests  
1755 Cleveland Highway  
Gainesville, GA 30501  
[katkinson@fs.fed.us](mailto:katkinson@fs.fed.us)  
770-297-3000

**Charles Meyers, Regional Forester**

USDA Forest Service-Region 8  
1720 Peachtree Rd., Room 760-S  
Atlanta, GA 30367-9102  
404-347-4177

**Ann Veneman**

**Secretary of Agriculture**

James L. Whitten Bldg.  
1400 Independence Ave.  
Washington, DC 20250

# Stop I-3! Update and Some Background

By Joe Gatins : GFW Secretary & Tallulah District Leader

## Our backyards must get bigger if the fight is to succeed

Instinctive inclinations to protect one's backyard are going to have to be redefined if conservation and community organizations are to prevent a new Interstate highway from rampaging across Southern Appalachia.

These organizations also are going to have to resist natural inclinations to become their own worst enemies if the long, hard fight looming against "Interstate 3" is to succeed.

The backyard, for starters, is a whole lot bigger than many in the conservation community are used to dealing with – much bigger than a single ranger district, wilderness or wildlife management area, individual national trail, national forest, national park, stream, creek or wild and scenic river.

The proposed Interstate in question, pushed so far almost exclusively by several Congressmen from Georgia, is aimed at connecting Savannah (and its port) with Augusta, Georgia, (and the huge nearby Department of Energy nuclear complex called the Savannah River Site,) to Knoxville, Tennessee, (and its own federal nuclear facilities and the vast Interstate highway

network that connects the deep South and its east coast to the Midwest.) The list of probable supporters includes trucking and trucking-dependent, big-box firms, such as Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes, etc as well as the road-building lobby and the Georgia Department of Transportation, which is still mired in the old 20th Century mantra that only new pavement is progress.

There is no current preferred route for this vast concrete clear cut, but several things are clear, no matter which alternative route is picked by the congressmen, there is an army of lawyer-lobbyists in the wings waiting to back them and the Georgia DOT and the Federal Highway Administration. To get from Augusta to Knoxville the proposed highway would have to cross over at least two national forests and countless sensitive areas and waterways, steam-rolling a swath of territory three and one-third footballs fields wide in an area that is enjoying a renaissance largely because it does not today have an interstate highway running through it.

To Join or make a donation go to [www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org) and click on "Ways to Give" or use this form and mail to the address below

## Georgia ForestWatch Membership Form

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

*(Please, circle one)*

	Individual
Sugar Maples	\$25
Buckeyes	\$50
White Oaks	\$100
Butternuts	\$250
Hemlocks/Life	\$500
Any Other Amount	\$ _____

Make Checks payable to:

GEORGIA FORESTWATCH,  
15 Tower Rd., Ellijay, Ga 30540

We accept Master Card, Visa, and American Express  
credit card info:

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*~ All contributions are tax deductible ~*

Simply put, all of Southern Appalachia is at risk.

Hugh Irwin, a soft-spoken senior planner for the Southern Appalachia Forest Coalition put it this way last month before the more than 300 people who attended a public hearing in Murphy, N.C.: “Wherever it would go ... the mountain moving and the mountain sliding would bring profound changes to the landscapes and cause profound disturbance to the environment.”

Wherever the route goes between the Blue Ridge Escarpment and the Smokies, he added, “the potential benefits would not outweigh the probable negatives that would occur with this road.”

Another speaker at the Murphy meet, Mary Olson, Southeast Office Director of the Asheville-based Nuclear Information & Research Service, told the hushed crowd that Southern

turn. This reality stands in stark contrast to the promise of an economic cure-all being served up by likes of Norwood and former Rep. Max Burns of Statesboro, the original architect of the I-3 plans.

Burns, although defeated by Rep. John Barrow last November, is already running for re-election, dividing his time between his family farm in Sylvania, Georgia, and Washington D.C., where he has morphed into a consultant for a law firm specializing in “government affairs”. Although this move sounds very much like Burns walked through the traditional “revolving door” between government positions and government lobbying, his new employer, Thelen Reid & Priest LLP, skirted the issue in the announcement of his hiring. “While he is prohibited from lobbying the Congress for a period of one year, he will play a major role working with our staff of lobby-



*Construction photo of I-26 through the North Carolina Mountains  
Photo by: Taylor Barnhill Flight by SouthWings ( [www.southwings.org](http://www.southwings.org) )*

Appalachia already finds itself at a “nuclear crossroads,” which would only become more crowded were I-3 built to completion. Interstates are used to transport nuclear waste from nuclear power plants, as well as nuclear weaponry material. I3 champion Rep. Charlie Norwood has also proposed to run a second interstate, dubbed Interstate 14, from Augusta to Natchez, Mississippi. Nuclear shipments thus could run not only north and south, but also east and west.

Finally, even the federal governments own studies suggest that Interstates in rural areas are no guarantee of economic advance, but, in some cases, even accelerate economic down-

ists and advising clients on policy issues related to agriculture, transportation, infrastructure and construction,” a Thelen Reid spokesman said.

Meanwhile, the costs of building such infrastructure and Interstates in mountain territory are astronomical. For example, the North Carolina Department of Transportation projects the total cost of widening and tunneling 17 miles of roadway below the Great Smoky Mountains National Park at better than \$600 million – or more than \$35 million per mile! Some estimates peg the cost of

(Continued on Page 11)

## Human Fire Evidence in the Southern Appalachians

By Jim Walker : Toccoa District Leader

On Saturday, September 17, the Western North Carolina Alliance hosted a conference at the University of North Carolina – Asheville on “The Role of Fire in the Southern Appalachian Mountains: Impacts, Response and Appropriate Use.” While all of the presentations were informative and useful (they will be reviewed in the next issue of the newsletter), I was most interested in the one by Ted Gragson, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Georgia, on “Human Fire Evidence in Southern Appalachians – European Contact to Present.”

While Desoto reached the Southern Appalachians in 1540, the first reliable data on intentional burning by Indians are from the British, no earlier than 1690. Col. Chicken, Commissioner of Indian Trade, mentioned Indian forest burning in 1715. By 1800 and later, survey records provide evidence of intentional fire. The most impressive example is from Andrew Ellicott, who wrote in 1811, while surveying the boundary between North Carolina and Georgia in 1811, “the greatest inconvenience we experienced arose from the smoke occasioned by the annual custom of the Indians in burning the woods. Those fires scattered over a vast extent of country made a beautiful and brilliant appearance at night; particularly when ascending the sides of the mountains.”

Gragson pointed out, however, that these later accounts (after the early 1700s) came at a time of intense social and economic change among the Indians and may not be reflective of the fire regime prior to European contact, since the greatly increased demand for deer hides for trade may have prompted increased burning to improve hunting. Among the many other possible reasons why Indians burned, Gragson considers the most important to be facilitating the gathering of nuts, including chestnuts. He also cautioned that there are very few early primary

accounts of Indian burning (about five), and all of the hundreds of scientific references are to these same few early observations. Furthermore, these observations are of a very limited area, primarily the vicinity of villages and main travel routes, where intentional burning was presumably most prevalent.

As Europeans took over the area, landscape use changed dramatically. Fire was extensively used to improve livestock browse and prepare fields. Later, during the industrial logging period, trains were a major source of unintentional fires. In 1905, in U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 37, *The Southern Appalachian Forests*, Ayres and Ashe wrote, “More than 78,000 acres of the region examined have recently been so severely burned as to kill the greater portion of the timber, but greater damage has been done by light fires creeping through the woods year after year, scorching the butts and roots of timber trees, destroying seedlings and forage plants, consuming forest litter and humus, and reducing the thatch of leaves which breaks the force of the rain. Evidence of such fires is found over approximately 4,500,000 acres, or 80 per cent of the entire area.”

Around 1920, North Carolina began to keep good records of wildfires, including occurrence, cause, size class and damage. This 80-year record shows very low fire frequency in western North Carolina. Arson and intentional burning are the primary causes, with lightning igniting only 3% of the fires since 1920. Most fires during this period have been very small, and 70-80% have burned less than 10 acres.

In summary, historical fire regimes vary greatly in different periods. It is very difficult to determine fire regimes prior to European contact. While there is no doubt that Indians practiced intentional burning for various objectives, there is little evidence regarding the size of the area affected by this burning. ♦

## Our Strength Is Volunteers !

By James Leitess: Assistant Director

The work of Georgia ForestWatch rests on the many shoulders of our dedicated and talented volunteers. This season we have two new faces on the Board of Directors, a new office volunteer and a couple of new hike leaders. Along with all this great new blood there are many returning volunteers in the office, in the field, and contributing to our newsletter.

New to the Georgia ForestWatch's office this season is Jenny Hobson, an avid hiker and birder, and part-time resident of Oglethorpe mountain for the past 20 years.

Jenny has been helping out with the ongoing

(Continued on Page 15)



Left to right: Carole, Jenny, Betty & George helping out in our sunny conference room

## Stop I-3! Update and Some Background , (Continued From Page 9)

interstate construction in mountain territory at a mere \$25 million per mile. Whatever the actual figure, the final cost to carve out a new 450-mile Interstate would be both billions of dollars and priceless intact landscapes lost, at a time of escalating federal deficits and dwindling untrammelled wilderness.

In response to this pork barrel project the people of Southern Appalachia mobilized rapidly to try to counter what they see as a real threat to a way of life and character of the special places they are fortunate enough to call home.

Individual information and education organizations sprang up almost overnight to protest the Interstate 3 proposal, with Towns, White, Habersham and Rabun counties, Georgia; and Clay, Cherokee, Macon and Jackson counties, North Carolina, and residents of Oconee County, South Carolina and affected areas of east Tennessee jumping quickly into the fray.

County boards of commissioners in Habersham, Rabun and White counties, Georgia, promptly voiced their opposition to the proposed highway. Rabun, in particular, was getting an appalling preview of what vast road building entails, with ongoing widenings along U.S. 441 and U.S. 76. Mountains literally are being bulldozed, flattened and moved to make way for the paving machines. Nearby waterways, despite use of many silt fences, are running red with the ooze of crimson-colored Georgia clay, leaving streams incapable of supporting the rich diversity of fish species that is a hallmark of Southern Appalachia.

Better than a dozen conservation groups, including Forest-Watch have aligned themselves with the Stop I-3 Coalition, and other locales are expected to join soon. For now the coalition bills itself as a loose confederation of interested groups and supporting organizations (see [www.StopI-3.org](http://www.StopI-3.org)) that boasts a fast-growing mailing list of individual supporters, and its own information-packed website. The coalition is being coordinated by a strategy team lead by chairperson Elizabeth Wells of Sautee Georgia.

Coalition members are hanging together, realizing that if they do not pull in unison in opposition to this super-highway they will almost surely be defeated separately. The coalition is growing bigger, more cohesive, stronger

Friends of the mountains from near and far, from both the

metro Atlanta area and mid-Atlantic states, have chimed in with ringing calls of support. They realize that much of the mountain territory at risk is the property of the federal government – and that they own it, too, both as taxpayers and as visitors to the very special places of our southern mountains. Atlanta area folk also realize that their drinking water supplies and the pristine mountain watersheds that feed them are at even greater risk from pollution and sedimentation if the Interstate proposal takes hold, and that no amount of new road-building will, by itself, solve Atlanta's traffic woes.

This makes for a national network of Interstate opposition that will prove a mighty bulwark to the road machinations being hatched in the back rooms of Washington and Atlanta and Rep. Norwood's private offices.

Augusta's congressman began ducking and weaving on the Interstate during the Congressional recess last month, asking constituents and Republican party loyalists to hold their ire and fire until state and federal highway planners, in the words of the highway spending bill, "carry out a study and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the steps and estimated funding necessary to construct a route" for both the proposed I-3 and I-14. The I-3 study, budgeted at a cost of \$1.32 million, could take up to 24 months to complete, Norwood suggests.

But coalition members are holding the feet of the I-3 proponents to the fire and are prepared to fight this road today and two years hence.

The back yard at issue is one of regional and national consequence; too important for Southern Appalachia and its many friends to allow the injury of Interstate earth-moving machines.

### **Note from the Executive Director:**

Here, here Joe! Perhaps it would be reasonable, at this time, to suggest that the \$1.32 million that will be spent to study this destructive and unpopular proposal should be returned to the US treasury and included in the funding needed for assisting our fellow Americans struggling to put their lives back together after the devastation of hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast. ♦

## Welcome New Board Members, Ida & Sarah

By James Leites : Assistant Director

Oversight, planning, fundraising, and committees, committees, committees. The job of a Board Member is never done, and all ForestWatchers owe a debt of gratitude to those hardy souls who step forward and put their sweat into the management and every day duties necessary to make Forest-Watch the viable and vibrant organization that it is.

New to this intrepid group of volunteers this season

are Ida Long and Sarah Linn. Both new Directors have a deep commitment to the environment. Ida's activism has focused around the ORV issue, and Sarah is a professional Arborist who works on a regular basis treating hemlocks for infestations of HWA in north east Georgia. Welcome aboard and thanks for your efforts! ♦

# Rich Mountain "Road" Lawsuit Settled

By David Govus : Board Member/District Leader

On August 18th Georgia ForestWatch signed a settlement agreement with the Forest Service concerning the long running dispute over the Rich Mountain "Road". As part of this settlement agreement Georgia ForestWatch and their fellow plaintiff Wilderness Watch agreed to dismiss their lawsuit over the Forest Service's decision to rebuild the Rich Mountain in return for certain concessions from the Forest Service.

The Forest Service acquired approximately 17,000 Acres of the Rich Mountains in 1970 from several northern timber companies. Many of the virgin forests of the Southern Appalachians were originally cut in the early 1900's by northern timber companies who at that time had the capital to employ industrial logging techniques. This purchase by the Forest Service encompassed nearly all of the Rich Mountains a very steep and botanically 'rich' mountain range just north and east of Ellijay Georgia.

As part of their purchase in 1970 the Forest Service acquired a 9.3 mile road, built by the timber companies, that ran east to west over the crest of the mountains. The 'road' (as described by the FS in their own Environmental Assessment) is "primitive, poorly designed and improperly located with slopes exceeding 30 %". Several decades of lack of maintenance, abundant rain combined with the destructive effects of offroaders' rough tread tires reduced the single track road to a gullied, eroding mess. The Forest Service through the years refused to exercise their jurisdiction over the road and insisted that Gilmer County Georgia had a claim on the road. This despite the fact that no easement was granted, the road was not displayed on a Gilmer County road map, Gilmer County had never performed maintenance on it and had never actually formally claimed it. The existence of the 'road' resulted in the Rich Mountain Wilderness being truncated when it was created in 1986 and comprising only 10,000 Acres when it could have encompassed 16,000 Acres . In addition to shrinking the potential for a larger wilderness area the 'road' became an illegal' undesignated ORV/ATV play area , identified as such on the internet and drawing off road enthusiasts from all over the southeast and spawning illegal ATV trails into the Rich Mountain Wilderness.

In March of 2003 Gilmer County formally announced that they had never had a claim on the road. Despite this it took a lawsuit by Georgia ForestWatch in the fall of 2003 to force the Forest Service to take control of the 'road', close it and perform an assessment as to its future. Georgia ForestWatch in return dropped the lawsuit. The assessment and decision was released in June of 2004 and unfortunately the Forest Service decided to rebuild 8 of the 9 miles of this "primitive, poorly designed and improperly located" one track road at an estimated cost of some

\$450,000. The only reasoning given was to provide greater access to the small Rich Mountain Wilderness. Georgia ForestWatch filed an administrative appeal and when that failed went back into Federal Court in December of 2004 in an attempt to block this complete waste of taxpayer money. Georgia ForestWatch was unable to obtain a restraining order and the project went ahead. It became apparent that the reconstruction of the 'road' would be finished before the merits of the case could be heard and at this point it seemed that a negotiated settlement was the best option.

In the settlement agreement the Forest Service agreed to obliterate the steep western mile of the road from Persimmon Gap to Aaron Gap, as had already been planned. In addition, the Forest Service agreed to defer a decision to reconstruct the next section of the road from Aaron Gap to the crest of the Rich Mountains at Ramp Gap until October 1 2007. This 2 mile section of the 'road' will be closed to motorized traffic during this period. The rest of the road, some 6 miles, from Ramp Gap to Brownlow Gap will be reconstructed as planned and should be completed by this fall. One other stipulation in the agreement is that the section of the road reconstructed will only be open for motorized traffic during the big game hunt in the Rich Mountain Wildlife Management Area which is approximately from September the 15th to the end of October. ATVs are banned from the road and the area and Georgia ForestWatch retains the right to challenge any decision on the part of the Forest Service to reconstruct more of the road.

A better outcome certainly would have been a complete obliteration of the 'road'. The fact though that this formerly lawless ATV/offroad nightmare has been converted into a stabilized road little more than half its former length, should now be passable by 2 wheel drive vehicles and closed most of the year with ATVs banned has to be considered a great victory for Georgia ForestWatch . In many parts of the country local governments are trying to force the opening of old abandoned motorized trails across Forest Service land. Many thanks to the Turner Environmental Law Clinic at Emory University, lead counsel on the case and WildLaw of Montgomery Alabama who provided assistance to the Clinic.

As this newsletter goes to press it is impossible to determine how much money will be spent on the 6 miles of reconstructed road. The poor location of the road and lack of professional engineering when originally constructed coupled with a very wet summer has caused gravel use to exceed expectations. The costs will certainly run over \$50,000 per mile. This is money that could have been much better spent on the Forest's well engineered and necessary system roads that are sorely in need of repair. We hope in a future newsletter to detail the final costs of the roads and its finished condition. ♦

## Over the Wild Green Yonder

By Wayne Jenkins : Executive Director

For the second time this year, yours truly has had the pleasure of flying over the north Georgia region with SouthWings, the non-profit conservation organization that uses a network of volunteer pilots and small aircraft to protect and conserve the natural resources and ecosystems of the Southeast. Headquartered in Asheville, North Carolina, SouthWings provides this unique service across the Southeast.

On both occasions the purpose of our flight was to showcase to potential funding partners the beauty and unique role played by the Chattahoochee national forest within the context of rapid development of adjacent and regional private lands and to demonstrate the importance of large un-fragmented tracts of forested watersheds. The birds-eye-view from above in a small, maneuverable aircraft is a matchless experience.

On the first flight in April we, manager of Atlanta's Patagonia store Leigh Bost, ForestWatch supporter Steve DuBois, pilot John Milner and myself had perfect clear blue skies following very heavy spring rains. Covering territory from Carters Lake on the west to the Chattooga River on the Georgia-South Carolina border we were able to inspect every major north Georgia lake. Each one suffered from some degree of fouling sediment, from a full basin of tan to brown waters to the shocking plumes of orange mud fanning into sparkling turquoise Lake Burton, run-off from the road widening of Hwy 76 into Clayton. The surprising number and extent of suburban style developments, mostly on ridge-tops and continued fragmentation of what recently were large blocks of private forests was shocking but easily seen from above. We made several passes over the upper Chattooga river, eyes peeled for the first dead stands of hemlock woolly adelgid killed trees and found only one on the West Fork. From on high the Chattooga river is a truly beautiful green and white flashing crease carving its circuitous course southward.

The second flight lifted us, Katherine Edwards a trustee of the Sapelo Foundation, Executive Director of Coosa River Basin

Initiative Joe Cook, founder and pilot for SouthWings Hume Davenport and yours truly, into a dull sky of accumulated summer haze, ozone and particulates, covering north Georgia in a stubborn high pressure pall. Gaining altitude we cruised over to Cartersville Georgia to inspect a proposed landfill site at an old mine close to the Etowah river, south of town. Several large water filled pits of an off-green tint and one large round blue water-filled hole marked the site while earth moving equipment worked on the retaining wall of one of the pits. With the local porous

garst geology and the proximity of the river the proposal appears to be a poor one. Joe took a number of photos and continued to shoot away as we flew over the famous Etowah mounds site and up the river over a couple of beautiful ancient fish weirs. Our flight up the Great Valley of the Tennessee revealed a mixed rural landscape with increasing suburban type developments until we crossed the forested Armuchee ridges running north in long parallel rows, pocked with recovering clear-cuts of pines amidst the mixed older hardwood

stands. This district of the Chattahoochee-Oconee national forest was likely the most heavily affected by the thirty year road building/clear-cut timber harvest program which ForestWatch played a key role in halting in the late 90's. It will be interesting to see how well the dark green pine stands fare over the next decade facing the cyclic effects of the native southern pine beetle. Banking east over Dalton Georgia with its vast flat topped carpet industry sprawling along I-75 and several large hard-rock mining operations we head toward the Chattahoochee National Forest. Swooping in close (at least it felt close) over the steep billowing ridges and coves of the Cohutta Wilderness the aquatically diverse Conasauga River flashed its silver smile, flowing north in long looping turns in the green lower folds of the mountains. Up and over Cowpen mountain, dropping into the Mountaintown/Pink Knob Inventoried



*Flight participants (left to right) Steve Dubois, Wayne Jenkins, Leigh Bost and pilot John Milner*

(Continued on Page 15)

## Georgia Chestnuts Down, But Not Out

By Dr. Mark Stallings : President, GA. Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation

The Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation has gotten off to a terrific start. In our first full year, we have three different breeding projects about ready to harvest, and we are all on pins and needles waiting on the results. In the picture shown here Tom Fowler stands alongside an American Chestnut tree in Georgia; one of the largest known specimens of this species in Georgia. On top of a ridge on Forest Service lands above Noontootla Creek in Fannin County, this tree has survived attacks of the fungus and this year produced flowers that were fertilized with pollen from resistant trees bred by The American Chestnut Foundation.

Hopefully, we will get some chestnut burs that will allow us to capture the genetics from this hardy individual tree as we try to develop a "Georgia Line" of American Chestnut with resistance to the fungus that has killed billions of mature trees in the past.

For more information on The American Chestnut Foundation, the Georgia Chapter and our current breeding program, please visit our web site at: [www.GaTACF.org](http://www.GaTACF.org).

### Note from ForestWatch Executive Director:

These folks are doing great and important work, and are always looking for new and passionate members.◆



*This American Chestnut tree is known as the "Fowler" tree in honor of Tom Fowler. Tom found the tree with Edwin Dale while on reconnaissance for the Georgia Chapter of The American Chestnut Foundation*

## Political Leaders

### U.S. Senate

#### Senator Saxby Chambliss

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510  
202-225-6531

-or-

Deputy State Director Matt Sawhill  
c/o U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss  
100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1340  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339

770/763-9090. Fax: 770/226-8633

E-mail: [Matt\\_Sawhill@chambliss.senate.gov](mailto:Matt_Sawhill@chambliss.senate.gov)

#### Senator Johnny Isakson

U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510  
202-222-7272

Email: <http://isakson.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

-or-

District official Derek Norton  
c/o Sen. Johnny Isakson  
One Overton Park, 3625 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 970  
Atlanta, Georgia 30339  
770-661-0999 Fax: 770-661-0768.

### U.S. House Of Representatives

#### Congressman Nathan Deal

P.O. Box 1015  
Gainesville, GA 30503  
770-535-2592

Email: <http://www.house.gov/deal/contact/default.shtml>

#### Congressman Charlie Norwood

1056 Clausen St.  
Suite 226  
Augusta, GA 30907  
706-733-7725

Email: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

#### Congressman John Barrow

320 E. Clayton St.  
Suite 500  
Athens, Georgia 30601  
706-613-3232. Fax: 706-613-7229.

Email: <http://143.231.169.140/barrow/contactemail.asp>

## GFW Hiring Scientist/Forester

By: Wayne Jenkins : Executive Director

We are currently seeking to hire a professional forester. A recent grant award from the Lyndhurst Foundation of Chattanooga, Tennessee, enables us to fund this position for two years. The position will strengthen our monitoring of Forest Service projects, guide us in working with the Forest Service in defining appropriate "restoration" of forest stands, work to assist the agency in implementing proper monitoring of experimental projects and define and adjust the use of prescribed fire in the national forest.

The position offers an opportunity to engage, advocate,

define and educate as we work to have Forest Service projects meet the needs of the environment and the people. This is challenging and stimulating work and the right candidate will need a Forestry degree, excellent communication skills, desire to work collaboratively and on multiple projects, attention to detail and a passion for forest ecology.

Interested parties are invited to submit resumes and/or call the office for more information.

A huge THANK YOU goes to the Lyndhurst Foundation for their support! ♦

## Over the Wild Green Yonder, (Continued From Page 13)

Roadless Area, Georgia's largest, the humped back Appalachians rolled steeply up and away into Tennessee. This area when considered with the Cohutta range may be the largest unfragmented, no to low roads density area in north Georgia. Forests green and growing. No houses, no malls, no highways. Just forests sorting out the impacts of our past use and abuse. Growing.

Returning to the airport all agree, seeing our human activities and impacts from the air really puts things in perspective. Our cumulative affect on our environment on private lands of the region are obvious and spreading when compared directly with the forested acres of the national forest. We are grateful for these fine public landscapes and frightened by what appears to be an inevitable future of more houses, roads and highways. More, more, more.

Thanks go to Taylor Barnhill, SouthWings executive Direc-

tor and the pilots who provide us with these amazing experiences for our work of protecting the environment we all love, use and share. SouthWings needs volunteer pilots in our state. Pass the accompanying article on to those who may be interested.

### --- THE POWER OF PILOT VOLUNTEERS ---

Are you or someone you know a pilot and love to fly every chance you get? Would you like those flight hours to benefit your community? Then consider volunteering your skills to SouthWings and become part of the growing "conservation air force" in the Southeast.

A better world starts with you. Become a SouthWings Volunteer Pilot today. For more information contact Taylor Barnhill at 1-800-640-1131 or [taylor@southwings.org](mailto:taylor@southwings.org). ♦

## Our Strength is Volunteers, (Continued From Page 10)

tasks of updating our membership database, processing mailings, and other computer-related tasks. Attention to detail and focus on productivity makes Jenny a valuable addition to the office. Recently retired from Bartow County as an Earth Science teacher, Jenny brings to ForestWatch a knowledge of ecology, plant and bird identification, as well as writing and general office skills.

Local Ellijay resident and nonprofit Legal Services attorney Claudia Burgess has joined the ForestWatch hike-leading team. Leading hikes for ForestWatch is part of a natural progression for Claudia, an outdoor enthusiast and intrepid explorer of the Rich Mountain WMA here on the edge of Ellijay. In addition to running the well traveled Stanley Gap to Deep Gap trail with her two dogs, Claudia has of late made a habit of exploring the network of unmarked trails that crisscross the southern flank of the WMA, usually getting back to her car before dark.

If you were on the 7/23 Gennett Poplar hike you undoubt-

edly met our other new hike leader, Catherine Leitess. A resident of Cherrylog Georgia, Catherine enjoys hiking with environmentally-minded folks and looks forward to leading a ridge hike during November when the leaves are down and hikers can see for miles and miles. Catherine has been delighted to use her background in Natural Sciences to assist ForestWatch in some field work this summer.

Returning volunteers this season include Carole Ligi and George and Betty Lee in the office, and Tom Govus and Brent Martin leading hikes. Other significant volunteers include Advisors, Board members and District Leaders, all of whom contribute to make Georgia ForestWatch an effective and fun team focused on preserving, conserving and restoring our natural heritage. A list of all Advisors, Board Members and District Leaders can be found on page three.

Thanks you ! ♦

## Calendar of Events

- ▶ 10/1 - Lumpkin Coalition Hemlock Fest Fundraiser (see [www.lumpkincoalition.org](http://www.lumpkincoalition.org) for details)
  - ▶ 10/7 - 10/9 Fall Retreat at Camp Wahsega
  - ▶ 10/22 Hike - Grassy Mtn. Jim Walker leader
  - ▶ 10/29 Hike - Springer Mtn. Tom Govus leader
  - ▶ 11/05 Hike - Ridge hike Catherine Leitess leader
  - ▶ 11/10-12 - SAFC Eastern Forest Restoration Conference ( [www.safc.org](http://www.safc.org) for more info )
  - ▶ 11/12 Hike - Middle Fork Broad River, Forest Restoration Tour Sullivan, Sisk and Warren leaders
  - ▶ 11/19 Rich Mtn. - Claudia Burgess leader
  - ▶ 12/3 Kelly Ridge - Brent Martin leader
  - ▶ 12/10 GPS & Topo! Tutorial followed by short Field demonstration- David Govus presenter
  - ▶ 12/17 Mill Creek Old Growth - Wayne Jenkins leader
- See "Get Out(side)!" on page 3, or visit us at [www.gafw.org/hikes.htm](http://www.gafw.org/hikes.htm) for more info ♦

706-635-8733  
[www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org)

Georgia Forestwatch  
15 Tower Rd.  
Ellijay, GA 30540

Wear your team's colors! Buy a 2005 GFW organic cotton, non-PVC ink sweatshop-labor-free T-shirt.

For pictures and ordering go to:  
[www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org).

Visit Us Online At  
[www.gafw.org](http://www.gafw.org)

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ELLIJAY, GA  
PERMIT #4749