Forest News

Georgia ForestWatch Quarterly Newsletter Summer 2007

Georgia ForestWatch History, Part 4 "The Brent Martin Years"

Page 3

Inside This Issue

From the Director 2

Georgia ForestWatch History, Part 4: The "Brent Martin Years" 3

Native Plant Sale Makes Mark in Wilds of North Georgia 4

USDA Forest Service Sets Chattooga Boating Meetings 5

Georgia ForestWatch Green-Lights Timber Sale 6

ForestWatch Fall Retreat – Mark Your Calendars 7

ForestWatch Hike Log: Till Ridge Cove 8

Georgia ForestWatch Is Hiring 12

Smokey's Conundrum: Prescribing Fire on the Blue Ridge 14

New Look for ForestWatch Alerts 15

New Field Guide to Fishes of the Conasauga Available 17

Georgia ForestWatch Welcomes New Members 20

From The Director

Creating a Culture of Advocacy

Wayne Jenkins
Executive Director

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead 1901-1978

Anthropologist Margaret Mead's oft-quoted statement, though used perhaps too frequently, begs a few questions: Where does it come from this striving to improve the world? Why do individuals spend precious personal time trying to make a difference? Who are these people who believe, despite a world sometimes seemingly in freefall, that they can make any difference at all?

If you are reading this column, I assume you think of yourself as an advocate. Specifically, as far as ForestWatch is concerned, an advocate for protecting federally managed forests in Georgia. You most likely have other issues and beliefs that you devote time to, as well, but something about your personal relationship with your public forestlands moves you to act to protect them.

Perhaps this advocacy foundation is laid early, at home or church or at school with a personal experience of injustice or witnessing of an injustice to others. As children, most of us have strong feelings about fairness (an innate "Golden Rule" principle reinforced by parents and others,) and know what is right -- but nothing effects us as deeply as the experience of being wronged or being witness to something our gut screams is just not right. As we mature, our democracy-based culture teaches that wrongs should not go unaddressed, that not only should we take action but it would be irresponsible not to. That we have a role as citizens to participate. What incredible power and optimism!

Early on, this merging of our private concerns and taking public action weaves advocacy and politics into the very fabric of our lives. Our participatory democracy virtually demands that we "do something." This is unique and important and taken for granted by many, that we have a part to play, that no one else can perform that part and that we can make things better. Those who support Georgia ForestWatch know this from past experience and successes. Our work for protecting the forests we love has not been for naught. There are beautiful places we can point to and say, "There, that forest, that mountain, that river and stream and waterfall, I had a part in protecting that."

The purpose of this newsletter and much of our work for protecting the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest has to do with you, dear reader. As a regular dues paying member, district leader, major donor, volunteer or perhaps involved at the board of directors leadership level, you have jumped into the fray. You are standing up for something vital and important in your life and our job at ForestWatch is to inform, inspire and empower your efforts.

You understand that only if "we the people" participate, roll up our sleeves and get involved, only then can we affect the kind of change needed to make our part of the world better. You understand the power you have individually, especially at the local level, to educate and influence, and you know that your voice joined with those of other informed and passionate forest lovers is what is necessary for protecting our incredible forests.

Over the next couple of years the ForestWatch board and staff will be focusing on increasing our membership. We believe that there are many, many Georgians who love and use the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests but who are unaware of the problems and challenges there. Many folks are also unaware of ForestWatch, our history and role in protecting their forest. You can connect the two. Talk to your friends about our work and why you are a member. Invite them along on one of our outings or bring them as guests to our spring wine tasting and native plant sale or fall retreat. We must grow this family of citizen advocates. There are beautiful places and generations to come depending on us.

Together we can make a difference for protecting our public forests in Georgia.

Indeed, it may be the only way.

Georgia ForestWatch history, Part 4: "The Brent Martin Years"

by Bob Kibler and Charles Seabrook
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The following is the fourth in a five-part series covering the history of Georgia ForestWatch over the last 20 years.

In our history of Georgia ForestWatch, we rewind a bit to focus on the pivotal era in the 1990s when the organization moved from the wings to center stage – assuming the lead role in protecting the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests from ruinous logging and other destructive practices.

It's a period that long-time ForestWatch members fondly recall as the "Brent Martin years" because of the young man who shepherded the organization and nudged it into the spotlight. Under Martin's vigilance and firm hand, ForestWatch evolved from a loose-knit group of watchdog volunteers into a prominent, cohesive force fighting for forest protection.

As ForestWatch's first executive director, he took fund-raising to a new height, securing an impressive array of grants and donations to replenish the organization's near-empty coffers. He led relentless battles to shut down controversial roads in the Chattahoochee and keep power lines and military training sites out of the forest. He fought to halt illegal ATV traffic that ripped up the forest's fragile soil. He succeeded in finding old-growth stands in the forest even though skeptical veteran foresters declared that none existed.

Martin, 47, had a keen interest in conservation going back to early boyhood; at age 12, he was a member of the National Wildlife Federation. But more than anything else, it was his boyhood experiences in rural Cobb County in the 1960s and 1970s that shaped his conservation ethic and propelled him into a daunting career of protecting forests.

He grew up in the Oakdale section of Cobb, a place of rolling farmland and wooded hills. "It was…a seemingly endless forested and pastoral landscape… that I learned from an early age held great mysteries and wonder," he recalled in Southern Hum web magazine. "From it I learned to appreciate the many gifts that the natural world had to offer. Arrowheads turned up in our freshly plowed garden, beaver and muskrats traveled the worn banks of Nickajack creek, bream and catfish filled its silent eddies, and gnarly grey beech trees held ancient initials from decades past. We ate Chinese Chestnuts from an overgrown and

(continued on page 10)

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Cover photo: Georgia ForestWatch photo. Brent Martin with an old American beech while conducting on-the-ground forest monitoring on the Armuchee Ranger District.

Georgia ForestWatch native plant sale makes mark in wilds of north Georgia

Bigger. Better. More fun. More instructive. And very, very useful to Georgia ForestWatch. There are hardly enough superlatives to describe the 2007 Georgia ForestWatch Wild and Woolly Native Plant Sale and Wine Tasting.

A lot of ForestWatchers, friends and paying members of the general public showed up. A lot of spectacular native plants were sold. A lot of good food got washed down with award winning wine at Tiger Mountain Vineyards this past May 19. Attendees enjoyed a veritable buffet of delicious cheeses and food collected by Sue Willis of Grapes & Beans. All for a good cause.

And there are hardly enough ways to thank all those who made it happen. But special recognition must be handed to Helen Meadors and Sarah Linn, co-chairs of this most successful event, who bore the lion's share of the planning, organizing and just general schlepping around that made it all happen – seemingly so seamlessly and so effortlessly.

So, thank you, Helen and Sarah – and all those staff, volunteers, donating artists and authors, and the many friends who put their heart and soul into making this sale a success. And thank you, Martha and John Ezzard and Leckie and Bill Stack, for sharing the vineyards with all of us. It is a most unique and convivial venue for holding Georgia ForestWatch's "affordable fundraiser." ■

Dee Daley photo

ForestWatch president, Joe Gatins, awards door prize of donated Patagonia apparel to Brad Epperson. Patagonia Atlanta manager Leigh Bost applauds in the background. Having the luck of the Irish, Mr. Epperson also won a lovely raffled art piece donated by Honor Woodard.

Dee Daley photo

For the event raffle, photographer, Peter McIntosh (right) donated an exquisite and graceful photograph of the Chattooga River. The crowd was thrilled when dedicated ForestWatch member and plant sale volunteer, Nancy Waldrop (left) won the drawing.

Georgia ForestWatch photo

Former ForestWatch president and board member Jim Sullivan (left) and board member Charlie Seabrook (right) argue over who looks most debonair in their logo t-shirts.

Georgia ForestWatch photo

In addition to the beautiful hilltop location at Tiger Mountain Vineyard, shoppers at this year's native plant sale were thrilled with the great selection and informative signage.

Dee Daley photo

John and Martha Ezzard of Tiger Mountain Vineyards, once again, generously rolled out the red carpet for ForestWatch's Wild & Woolly Native Plant Sale and Wine Tasting.

USDA Forest Service sets Chattooga boating meetings

As ForestWatchers far and wide already know from recent e-mail alerts, the USDA Forest Service is planning two public meetings in July, designed to help inform the agency's upcoming proposals regarding boating on the 21 miles of the Upper Chattooga River.

Those reaches of the congressionally designated Wild and Scenic River had been closed to boating for more than 30 years. But the agency, under fire from determined boater lobby groups and individual whitewater paddlers, is studying whether to open these stretches to boating.

The Forest Service earlier this June held three "open house" meetings on the Chattooga boating issue – in Clayton GA, Highlands NC and Walhalla SC– to review the status of an ongoing study of the boating-no boating controversy sparked by legal appeals by the boaters and their representatives.

These are to be followed by:

- A "public hearing," 1-5 p.m., Tuesday, July 10 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 301 West Main Street in Walhalla, S.C. Those who cannot get there in person are encouraged to write John Cleeves, Project Coordinator, Sumter National Forest, 4931 Broad River Road, Columbia, S.C. 29212, or e-mail him at jcleeves@fs.fed.us
- An all-day "standards workshop" on Saturday, July 14, will be held at First Baptist Church, 403 East Main Street, Walhalla, SC from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Note:** This is a **change** in location from what was previously announced. (The meetings are being held in South Carolina because the Sumter National Forest has been given the lead in the visitor capacity study.

The latter meeting is being billed as an opportunity for the public to "provide input on proposed standards for all resources along the Upper Chattooga and management actions that might be needed to ensure those standards are met."

As with other such meetings previously held on this issue, Georgia ForestWatch encourages all its members to attend these meetings, to take part in the give-and-take and to be vigorous in registering their individual and collective beliefs about the notion of boating this largely wild section of river.

The upper reaches of the Chattooga, except for the whitewater creeks and streams of Yellowstone National Park and a very few other waterways, remain one of the few public waterways that are reserved for the natural enjoyment of pedestrians only, and whose extensive flora and fauna and outstandingly remarkable values and resources are protected from the ever-increasing human population pressures being experienced on the 36 miles of the lower Chattooga.

Absent proof to the contrary, Georgia ForestWatch believes that the existing boating ban from the Route 28 bridge to Grimshawes, North Carolina, should remain in effect.

It has been an effective management tool to date to prevent user conflicts, to preserve and protect special natural areas and to maintain harmony along a precious, natural resource.

For more info on this subject go to http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/ ■

Georgia ForestWatch green-lights timber sale

by Jim Walker : Co-district Leader

As long as I have been working with Georgia ForestWatch (about six years now), I have heard it said that we are not a no-cut organization. Why not? Well, there are plenty of good and not-so-good reasons for cutting trees. Personally, I freely admit to being a tree hugger, but I have cut lots of trees over the years. The decision to cut or not to cut should be based on a cost-benefit analysis, including consideration of the opportunity cost, i.e., the lost benefit from leaving a tree or stand or forest uncut.

ForestWatch goes through a similar process in deciding how to respond to the Forest Service's scoping notices. But in addition to the environmental issues and public concerns that we are invited to address, the Forest Service also has to take into account factors such as budget, personnel, bureaucracy and politics, the stern details of which are almost entirely unknown to us.

Like any individual or organization, the Forest Service is evolving. Particularly, in some of its recent processes and proposals, the Chattahoochee National Forest seems to be trying to avoid controversy and address some of ForestWatch's concerns. We would like to encourage this trend. Without compromising merely for the sake of compromise, neither do we want to appear to be obstructionist. It would be unreasonable to expect or demand that every Forest Service management project be planned exactly as we would like.

Back in December, Alan Polk, the Blue Ridge District Ranger (the Blue Ridge District is the consolidation of the former Toccoa and Brasstown Districts) came to the Georgia ForestWatch office for a meeting, during which one of the topics he brought up was his desire to reach an agreement on a conceptual program for Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) prevention. (SPB outbreaks tend to occur on about a seven-year cycle, and the next one should be coming up soon, possibly as early as next year. SPB have been showing up already this year in traps on the Oconee National Forest. The best way to prevent SPB damage is by thinning overstocked pine stands.)

In early April, the Blue Ridge District proposed a vegetation management project within the Etowah River watershed. The proposed project involves several different types of management actions, but by far the greater part (433 acres) is commercial thinning, i.e., a timber sale, for the purpose of SPB prevention (about half of the basal area would be removed). Most of the stands proposed for this treatment are indeed dense, young pine thickets. In fact, it is hard to see what, if any, commercial value they might have. However, the largest stand, 161 acres, contains much more mature timber, predominantly white pine, which is generally accepted to be significantly less susceptible to SPB than yellow pine. The timber in this stand is obviously of considerable monetary value.

(continued on page 9)

Georgia ForestWatch photo

Trees killed by Southern Pine Beetle in the Etowah watershed. The Forest Service hopes to minimuze this problem through thinning of overstocked young pine stands.

ForestWatch fall retreat – mark your calendars

by Joe Gatins : Co-district Leader

Mark your calendars right now for what is going to be a fun and fulfilling weekend this fall – at the height of the leaf season in Rabun County.

The 2007 Georgia ForestWatch Fall Retreat will be held October 19-21 at Camp Ramah Darom, (formerly Tumbling Waters Camp, the site of one our first organizational meetings more than 20 years ago.)

There will be plenty of time for recalling the memories of yesteryear's forest protection efforts, a good bit of free time, many guided hikes, and music Saturday night, not to mention a stellar line-up of speakers, to include:

- Quentin Bass, the noted Forest Service heritage official, demonstrating the art of knapping and taking time to identify the age and approximate provenance of participants' projectile points and other archeological artifacts.
- Dr. James Costa, director of the Highlands (N.C.) Biological Station, to speak on his specialty, the wild and sometimes weird ways of insects across Southern Appalachia.
- Ila Hatter, a noted wildcrafter and naturalist, speaking on medicinal plants.
- Jim Herrig, an aquatics expert, speaking on the amazingly diverse Conasauga River.

The hikes, all rated no harder than "moderate," are to include a mix of nature walks, tree identification hikes, and forest management forays led by naturalist Tom Govus and ForestWatch co-district leaders and advisors, Jim Sullivan, Joe Gatins and Honor Woodard.

Look for more details in upcoming alerts and a formal invitation, with all pertinent information, by early August, including details about special programming for children and youth.

Previous such retreats have proven excellent learning opportunities for new ForestWatch members, as well as a good time to kick back and "get away from it all" for the veteran advocates and conservationists who populate our ranks.

Y'all come. And mark those calendars – today. ■

Wish List

We're looking for quality donations of the following items for the ForestWatch office. Donations are tax deductible, and we're happy to provide you with a letter acknowledging the donation.

- Bookcase
- Couch and/or matching loveseat
- Outdoor picnic table and chairs

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ForestWatch hike log: Till Ridge Cove

by Debra Davis

Nature opened her door Sunday, May 5, for an incredibly beautiful outing led by Honor Woodard, a Co-district Leader for Georgia ForestWatch.

My spouse, Larry, and I are relatively new members of Georgia ForestWatch and this was the first of what we hope will be many hikes to come. Larry and I always enjoy meeting new friends who also enjoy sharing their passion and love for our natural world. The group that hiked into this moist rich cove was no exception.

Till Ridge Cove is located southeast of the Southern Nantahala Wilderness, in Rabun County, Georgia. We hiked north from the trailhead in the Patterson Gap inventoried roadless area. Honor's goal for the hike was to experience the bounty of spring wildflowers.

I am a conservationist, avid self-taught mycologist and botanical photographer, and moist coves are prime areas for mushrooms and fungi of all sorts. I promised Larry before we headed out from Athens early Sunday morning that I would behave myself and not go crazy at the first mushroom spotted of the day. I confess that I could not contain myself. Before long on the trail, "Mushroom alert!" exploded out of my mouth, despite my promise and the fact that we were on a wildflower hike.

Honor Woodard photo

A fungus call Hot Lips, a stalked puffball species, wowed the group with shooting spores when squeezed.

A multitude of thanks is in order to Honor and the hiking group, who so patiently put up with me as I went into great detail about "Hot Lips" (*Calostoma lutescens*) one of three common stalked puffballs in North Georgia. I think it has always been within me to strive to get our wild mushrooms as much respect as we give the wildflowers. Their beauty and diversity is incredible as evidenced by the bounty of different colors, shapes and textures.

Honor Woodard photo

Hikers pause to appreciate Debra's fungus show and tell.

Despite the late spring hard freeze and the extreme drought continuing to intensify across North Georgia, the list of wildflowers we encountered grew longer and longer as the outing progressed. Our group was reminded why "moist cove forest" is such an apt name for this Southern Appalachian ecosystem.

The sidebar below lists a selection of the flora we encountered, but the actual number of species we enjoyed was much larger. Even though I didn't have a chance to record everything, the list for the day was over 50 different flowers, ferns, and fungi!

Thanks for a spectacular day to Honor, an adept and knowledgeable leader. I highly recommend ForestWatch's quality outings program; there is no better way to get out there and celebrate the natural treasure we have in Georgia's national forests! ■

Bloodroot
Sanguinaria candensis

White Clintonia
Clintonia umbellulata

Lori Martell photo

Honor Woodard photo

Star Chickweed
Stellaria pubera

Lori Martell photo

Timber sale

(continued from page 6)

The other parts of the proposal are termed "ecosystem restoration" (table mountain pine, oak oak-pine and canebrake); creation of early successional habitat; maintenance and water drainage improvements on some of the roads involved in the project which will help reduce siltation of streams, as will the closure of one short segment of road; and stream habitat improvement which will be done by manual labor only. ForestWatch has varying levels of enthusiasm for these parts of the proposal—from very high approval for road closure and improvement to quite low approval for the creation of early successional habitat. But SPB prevention is the primary focus.

The feature of this proposal most appreciated by ForestWatch is that, "In cases where hardwoods are present, they would not be cut." In general, the proposal is very well-crafted. ForestWatch surveys revealed that small portions of the stands to be thinned do not correspond to the overall description and are actually in good health already, with mature, nicely spaced, mixed hardwoods and pines, including shortleaf. It is expected that once the Forest Service looks at these areas that ForestWatch has identified they will be excluded from the treatment that they obviously do not need.

SPB is a genuine forest-health issue, and thinning of overstocked pines seems to be not only a way to possibly avoid SPB damage, but also a reasonable first step in moving stands toward a desired future condition of a healthy mixture of hardwoods and pines. The Forest Service can use as a reference point the healthy portions of those same stands, found by ForestWatch volunteer monitors, which somehow managed to escape the clear cutting of 1970s and 1980s. If there is some money to be made in the process, what's the harm in that? Georgia ForestWatch has no objection to timber sales so long as the environmental effects are consistent with our goals and vision for the forest.

The very existence of overstocked pine plantations at risk of catastrophic SPB damage is a result of Forest Service management practices in the past (clear cutting and creating pure pine stands) and Georgia ForestWatch is pleased that the Blue Ridge Ranger District is now moving in a direction more conducive to sustainable forest health. ■

To join or make a donation, go to www.gafw.org and click on "Ways to Give", or use this form and mail to the address below, or call our office at 706.635.8733 to use your credit card. Thanks!

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	$ _____

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"The Brent Martin Years"

(continued from page 3)

Georgia ForestWatch photo

Katherine Medlock (foreground) leading a steam ecology outing with then ForestWatch office manager Jennifer Rodriguez's father (left), Jennifer (center), and Brent Martin.

abandoned farmstead, and explored the seemingly vast remains of a wilderness Girl Scout camp, Camp Highlands." Then, when he was 17, the bulldozers and chainsaws showed up. Sprawl had arrived; the beautiful landscape would be no more. In little time, the powerful, smoke-belching earth movers scraped away every square inch of the Girl Scout camp. It became the Highlands Industrial Park.

"The vibrant waters of Nickajack Creek were transformed into a mud filled ditch, hideous, devoid of life," Martin said. "From then on, I turned my attention to getting away from there and to the Southern Appalachians…When I graduated from high school I did not join the rest of my classmates for a Caribbean cruise; instead, I took off for a backpacking trip across the length of the Smokies."

For the next several years, he worked at various jobs, including a sales position with a hardwood lumber company, "which further opened my eyes to what was happening to our forests," he said. His love of natural areas, though, never wavered. He joined the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, and then got an itch to climb rocks. He even traveled to Nepal, the Mecca for rock-climbing enthusiasts, to practice his challenging sport.

Back in Georgia, one of his favorite rock-climbing haunts was Pigeon Mountain in the state's northwest corner, a region of gentle ridges and valleys. The region attracted him for another reason: his maternal ancestors had settled in its Great Valley (the Coosa River Valley) in the 1850s and then scattered to surrounding areas. Later, the U.S. Forest Service included a huge chunk of the region in the Chattahoochee forest's Armuchee ranger district, which would play a significant role in Martin's career.

"As I drove through the Armuchee area or hiked or rock-climbed there, I would be just appalled over the huge clearcuts and other logging going on," said Martin. "It was devastating. The Forest Service treated the Armuchee like a red-headed step-child."

In early 1987, when he was an undergraduate history major at Kennesaw State College, he learned of a new volunteer group dedicated to keeping an eagle-eye on the Chattahoochee and Oconee national forests -- Georgia ForestWatch. The group's goal: rein in the destructive logging and road-building in the forests.

Martin took an immediate liking to the fledgling group born in September 1986. He became a member and started helping out district leaders and tagging along with them as they reconnoitered their sections of the forest. ForestWatch at that time did not have a district leader on the Armuchee.

"But I was really concerned over what was happening there," Martin said. "No one seemed to know much about it, perhaps because of its remoteness. It seemed that the Armuchee was being ignored. I started asking about it, and I was told that no one had volunteered as district leader for the Armuchee. It was suggested to me that since I was so concerned, I should sign on as the Armuchee's district leader."

He did so – at ForestWatch's first retreat at Camp Wahsega in September 1987.

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

He assumed the watchdog role over what was by far the most challenging and logged-over district in the Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests. More than 95 percent of the 65,000-acre Armuchee district was available for timber sales. The district itself was a patchwork of timberland scattered among the knobby ridges of northwest Georgia. In some places, it is only a few hundred yards wide. As one writer described it, the

> ... "as I drove through the Armuchee area or hiked or rock-climbed there, I would be appalled over the huge clearcuts and other logging going on" ...

Armuchee had been considered for decades as the back yard of the Chattahoochee forest, a place better known by local lumbermen and fox and squirrel hunters than backpackers and campers from the city. As ForestWatch and other groups focused more on protecting the expansive and wilder ranger districts of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east, the Forest Service was taking steps to eventually cut almost every acre in the Armuchee.

Martin, however, knew that, despite some heavy timbering on the Armuchee, there were still several tracts in the district just as ecologically important – and therefore worthy of protection – as the tracts that conservationists were fighting to save in the Blue Ridge mountains to the east. In particular, three Armuchee tracts – Rocky Face, Johns Mountain and Hidden Creek, each roughly about 6,500 acres in size – were considered potential roadless areas or candidates for higher protection.

As district leader, Martin pored over Forest Service scoping notices and trudged over the Armuchee's ridges and coves, following old trails, hunter paths and deer trails or hiking through the forests with just a map and compass. He found fragments of old growth oak and hickory on ridges, impressive beech stands along streams and wildflowers galore in the spring.

He proceeded to build up a volunteer support group of local people for the Armuchee. "I had a good mix of folks," he said. "I got a lot of help, too, from the Wilderness Society."

Meanwhile, he graduated from Kennesaw in 1988 with a degree in history. He also married and became the father of a baby son, Tanner. He entered graduate school at Georgia State University, earning a masters degree in history in 1991. Next, he set his sights on a doctoral degree – in modern British history.

(continued on page 12)

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

Georgia ForestWatch is Hiring:

We seek fulltime forest ecologist

Spread the word. We are currently looking to hire a full-time Forest Ecologist based out of our office in Ellijay, Georgia, to aid in our forest monitoring and conservation efforts.

Primary responsibilities:

- Coordinate our District Leader program to better prepare our volunteers to engage in the Forest Service's environmental review process and ultimately affect decisions and actions on the ground.
- Work collaboratively with Forest Service managers to define better methods for forest "restoration," and design forest health projects with a sustainable ecosystem approach over thousands of acres of degraded forest stands on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests.
- Ensure proper monitoring of specific vegetation management at the project level, and decipher scientific literature relating to specific project goals in order to more effectively involve the public in forest management proposals.
- GIS analysis of specific project proposals for use in responding to the Forest Service review process.
- Develop new GIS technologies to better predict and design forest management goals that could be adopted by the U.S. Forest Service and other forest management organizations.

Qualifications:
Minimum: Bachelor's degree in forestry, ecology, conservation biology or closely related field. Must have extensive experience in GPS and some knowledge of ArcGIS 9.(x) technologies.
Preferred: Master's degree in fields mentioned above. One or more years of professional experience in the field of ecology or GIS technology, and a working knowledge of the Forest Service NEPA process and Forest Plans.

Salary: $29,000 to $34,000 depending upon qualifications.

Applications will be reviewed immediately and the position will remain open until filled. Applicants should send a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to: Wayne Jenkins, 15 Tower Rd., Ellijay, GA 30540, or email these items to wjenkins@gafw.org. ■

"The Brent Martin Years"

(continued from page 11)

It would be an incredibly demanding time for him. In addition to concentrating on his doctoral thesis and performing his district leader duties in the Armuchee, he was working 20-30 hours a week for the Georgia State Archives and teaching a class at Kennesaw State.

The heavy load began to take its toll. In 1992, his first marriage ended in divorce. He would still be a big part of his son's life, however, essentially becoming a single parent. "I took Tanner with me nearly everywhere," Martin said. "I guess as a little boy he attended more ForestWatch board meetings than a lot of board members."

There was no let-up, though, in his vigilance of the Armuchee. In 1992, he appealed a huge timber sale at Rocky Face that would require several miles of new roads through the heart of the Armuchee district. Rocky Face, however, was the best candidate for a wilderness area in the Armuchee, and Martin vowed to save it from the loggers and road-builders. He and Peter Kirby and Shirl Parsons of the Wilderness Society took their cause to U.S. Rep. George "Buddy" Darden, who represented Georgia's 7th District and shared their appreciation for the Armuchee. Darden and fellow Georgia congressman Nathan Deal, whose district also encompassed a portion of the Armuchee, asked the Forest Service to hold off on logging in Rocky Face – and also on Johns Mountain and Hidden Creek – until they could be studied for possible designation as wilderness areas or scenic preserves. The agency agreed not to plan any additional cutting until the study was completed, but it declined to halt timber sales that already had been scheduled in those areas. It claimed that the sales – including the one that Martin had appealed – would not hurt the areas from being considered for special management protection in the future.

In 1994, Martin and the Wilderness Society tried another tactic – to get portions of the three areas into the roadless area inventory. The Forest Service opposed them at nearly every turn. Typical of the struggle was a controversy over a "road" – known as Swamp Creek Road – in Rocky Face. It had not been maintained in years and there was even a question of whether it was

(continued on page 13)

(continued from page 12)

still a road. The Forest Service claimed that it was actually a county-owned road and therefore could not be closed by the agency -- thus eliminating Rocky Face's candidacy as a roadless area. However, the county denied ownership. Later, the Forest Service finally admitted it belonged to the agency, and closed a portion of it.

Martin, though, would no longer have Darden as an ally – Darden in 1994 was defeated by Bob Barr, who was not sympathetic to Martin's cause. In addition, Deal decided to back away from the logging moratorium that he and Darden had requested earlier. Deal said he had worked out an agreement with the Forest Service that would allow selective harvesting on Johns Mountain and Hidden Creek. The moratorium, however, was still maintained on Rocky Face.

In the end, portions of the areas were accorded only limited protection under the second management plan for the Chattahoochee-Oconee, "and today there are still no designated roadless areas in the Armuchee district," Martin said. "It was unbelievable, though, how hard we worked to get protection for those areas."

Towards the end of 1995, Martin became ForestWatch president, succeeding James Sullivan, the first president. "James had done an incredible job getting ForestWatch through its early years," Martin said. "But by late 1995, ForestWatch's funds were down to only a few thousand dollars. The board wasn't meeting regularly. At that time, if you were a district leader, you were by default a board member. A lot of the district leaders, though, wanted to be in the woods looking for problems, not in meetings. The organization was floundering. I knew we had to get the funding back on track, and I had to call the board members and ask them if they still wanted to be board members."

It seemed an overwhelming task. He was still trying to raise a son, still working a job and still trying to earn a Ph.D. By then, though, another local group calling itself the Armuchee Alliance had sprung up. Its goals essentially were the same as Martin's -- protecting, preserving and restoring the Armuchee district. For the most part, the Alliance's prime movers and shakers were Don and Margaret Davis of Dalton. Don was a professor at Dalton State College. Martin and the Davises struck up a close relationship because of their mutual concerns over the Armuchee. Also at this time, Martin's interest in modern British history was waning, and he decided to abandon his pursuit of a doctorate in that field. Instead, his academic interest was turning to environmental and conservation history and he toyed with the idea of pursuing an advanced degree in that area.

But the Davises made him another offer – they asked him in early 1996 to become head of the Armuchee Alliance. In a difficult decision, Martin accepted, and in 1997, he and his new wife, Angela, moved to Calhoun where the Alliance's office was located. Martin then stepped down as ForestWatch president and was succeeded by Bob Kibler. Martin, however, stayed on as a member of ForestWatch and as Armuchee district leader.

At first, things went relatively smoothly. A governing board for the Alliance was created from the local community. An impressive array of sizeable grants was obtained from the Lyndhurst Foundation, the Merck Family Fund and the Turner Foundation.

But, then, almost as quickly, things started falling apart. In 1998, the Davises separated and later divorced. The Davises, it turned out, were the glue holding the Alliance together. Without their strong backing, Martin, even with his firm hand, was unable to hold the organization together. The Alliance's board essentially disintegrated, and the community support dried up.

It was major decision-time again for Brent Martin. He had an idea, and approached Bob Kibler at ForestWatch with it – merge the Armuchee Alliance with Georgia ForestWatch. Out of the merger, Martin opined, would come an even stronger ForestWatch. Kibler was taken aback, but then quickly realized the benefits of the two groups becoming one. Martin and Kibler, though, would have to sell the idea to the ForestWatch board, which, in large part, was ambivalent to a merger. Some board members were even dead set against it. "They felt that Georgia ForestWatch would lose its identify if it merged with another group," Martin said. "But the new organization would still be ForestWatch – it would be the Armuchee Alliance that would lose its identify."

To help convince the ForestWatch board that the merger was a good thing, Taylor Barnhill of the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition was asked to tout the benefits of the proposal. For one thing, the merger would transfer to ForestWatch some $70,000 in assets that had been donated or granted to the Armuchee Alliance. Barnhill and Martin had gotten an OK from the grantors for transferring the funds.

(continued on page 18)

Smokey's Conundrum: Prescribing Fire on the Blue Ridge

by Dudley Sisk, Jim Walker and Wally Warren

This past spring, mountain laurel and piedmont rhododendron have bloomed more brilliantly and prolifically than they have in many years. Lovely as they are, given their intolerance of fire, the shrubs are also often cited as evidence of the suppression of burning on the Chattahoochee National Forest for the past century. The abundance of these flowers lies at the core of a debate surrounding burning in north Georgia.

Recently, the three of us attended a conference put on by the Fire Learning Network (FLN). Sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, the network seeks to make fire a regular part of ecosystems in North America and beyond. Its stated vision is to "use fire where it is beneficial to both nature and people and keep fire out of ecosystems where it is destructive." This particular conference focused on public lands in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains. We were the only representatives of a conservation group; everyone else was affiliated with a state or federal land management agency, including the U.S. Forest Service.

The conference was instructive in many ways. It opened with presentations by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee, and several state agencies on how they use fire on their respective lands. The meeting also included field trips, group discussions on using fire to create more desirable conditions in different forest regimes, and some talk about how to create effective monitoring programs. One thing became especially clear: whether fire helps or harms the health of a particular place, on the Chattahoochee National Forest, neither prescribed fire nor the monitoring of its results has been as systematic as on other public lands.

The meeting included many topics surrounding the results of burning, but it failed to provide any convincing evidence that fire has had a long-term, pervasive impact on the southern Blue Ridge. Henri Grissino-Mayer, a geographer at the University of Tennessee, made the only effort to prove the past presence of fire. Along with several colleagues, Grissino-Mayer has painstakingly reconstructed the fire regime of several locations in the Great Valley of Virginia as far back as 1700. The researchers discovered forest stands that burned every five years until 1920 or so, when fire was suppressed in the region.

Grissino-Mayer's work is fascinating and persuasive, but his research is unfinished, and several important questions remain unanswered. First, most of his samples consist of fire-scarred table mountain pines, probably the most

(continued on page 16)

Buy ForestWatch Raffle Tickets –

Support forest conservation and maybe win a prize

We're now selling tickets for the 2007 ForestWatch Raffle. This year, rather than have the raffle take place entirely within the Fall Retreat, we've been selling tickets at outreach events. Now tickets are even available on our website in blocks of 3, and you're welcome to buy tickets at the ForestWatch office, 15 Tower Road in Ellijay.

Thanks to two generous donations, we're proud to offer outstanding prizes. First Prize, again this year, is a ride in a vintage bi-plane with loyal ForestWatch member, pilot Cal Tax. Second Prize, provided by the Buford REI store, is a rugged high-end daypack filled with all the essential gear for hiking.

The drawing will take place at the Fall Retreat in October. Retreat attendees will be able to buy tickets until shortly before the drawing. There is no need to be present to win and membership, while certainly encouraged, is not required. Buy as many tickets as you like! The price of a single ticket is $10, or buy 3 for $20.

For more information, contact Lori Martell, outreach director, at lmartell@gafw.org or call 706-635-8733.

To purchase raffle tickets via PayPal on the website, type the following into your web browser: http://www.gafw.org/membership.htm

New look for ForestWatch Alerts

by Lori Martell : Outreach Director

Georgia ForestWatch initiated a program in February 2006 both to update our image and to help us more effectively inform our members and the public of our work. To accomplish this task we contracted the services of talented designer, David Stone of design:30, a visual communication agency in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

The first milestone was the rollout of our new logo, letterhead and business cards, followed closely with a new masthead and layout for the newsletter. Next came a large logo banner for use at outreach events and logo merchandise including ball caps and organic cotton t-shirts. T-shirts and caps are offered for sale at our office in Ellijay and all ForestWatch events.

We've now completed the next step with a new format for the outing and action alerts that you get by e-mail. Gone are plain text alerts devoid of style and formatting of any kind! "The new HTML-based ForestWatch Alert enables us to include a sharp new look with a masthead, photos, and easy-to-read text – all without huge file sizes that could overload your e-mail program," says Michael Griffith of Griffiti, LLC, the mastermind who designed the alert and wrote the HTML code, and is now busily redesigning our website.

ForestWatch Alerts are the way to find out what outings are upcoming and what forest issues urgently need your attention. Wayne Jenkins, executive director of Georgia ForestWatch, agrees, "If you don't know that we lead free hikes in Georgia's national forests, or if you don't know that there were five important public meetings on the Chattooga boating issue, you probably haven't signed up for ForestWatch Alerts."

"Sometimes people are reluctant to sign up for the alerts because they fear being inundated with e-mails," Jenkins continued. "However, you can anticipate receiving a ForestWatch Alert only about once every week or two. Plus, we do not rent or sell your e-mail address to third parties so you don't have to worry about spam."

If you've not yet received one of our newly designed alerts, please contact Kathy at our office to sign up for ForestWatch Alerts, at info@gafw.org or call 706-635-8733.

The next step in the process is the design of a new brochure, followed finally by the rollout of a brand new website. ■

Cynthia Rondeau photo

The updated ForestWatch image proudly displayed at a recent outreach event celebrating National Trails Day.

Smokey's Conundrum

(continued from page 14)

fire-dependent trees in the southern mountains, but also occurring only rarely. Thus, his samples are skewed toward fire-prone locations. Second, Grissino-Mayer is still working on establishing tree-aging protocols from before 1700. So far, then, none of his data predates the European settlement of the Great Valley. Europeans burned and grazed widely, which had enormous effects on the forest, but those effects were likely different from what was there before. Third, Grissino-Mayer's work has centered on the Ridge and Valley province, not the Blue Ridge.

David Ray photo

David Ray of the Nature Conservancy paused during a workshop to snap this photo of Georgia ForestWatch volunteers (left to right), Wally Warren, Jim Walker and Dudley Sisk, at the recent Fire Learning Network conference in Asheville, NC.

Thus, we don't know enough yet to conclude whether fire occurred frequently or rarely in the Blue Ridge. There are indications that fire was a regular phenomenon in places. In Prehistoric Native Americans and Ecological Change, for example, Paul and Hazel Delcourt cite evidence of widespread felling of trees and burning in Native American towns along the Little Tennessee River as early as 4,000 years ago. Native Americans undoubtedly greatly altered the environment around their living places, farms, and hunting grounds. But no evidence has yet been published of great, prehistoric alterations or burning on the ridge tops or in rich, north-aspect coves.

We fear the Forest Service is substituting a new orthodoxy – widespread burning, for an older one – no burning at all. For three quarters of a century, the Forest Service fostered an anti-fire culture in the United States. Smokey the Bear was their creation. This anti-fire bias, according to Stephen Pyne, came less from science than from the enormous number of lives and amount of cash the Forest Service consumed in fighting the Great Fires of 1910. (Pyne, a historian, tells the story in Year of the Fires and in Fire in America.) The Forest Service was trying to impose one prescription on all forests. The greatest opposition came from the South, where H. H. Chapman, Herbert Stoddard and others showed the necessity of fire for the longleaf pine forests on the coastal plain. The Forest Service returned the favor by branding Chapman and Stoddard heretics.

Thus, while in the past the Forest Service excluded fire absolutely, now it may want to burn indiscriminately. One motivation for this is money; the Chattahoochee National Forest receives extra funds for burning, and those funds loosen tight budgets. The promise of more funds can skew judgment, especially when large environmental organizations like The Nature Conservancy promote the recovery of a long, glorious, incendiary past.

We do not oppose all fire. We would like to see a measured, experimental plan for burning. In some places, fire clearly has a history. For example, on Currahee Mountain, the presence of purple-headed smooth coneflower and other prairie species implies the previous existence of savannah and woodland environments in the upper piedmont, and those in turn imply past fire. Since the Forest Service burned this area in 2005, the Georgia Natural Heritage Program has begun a coneflower-restoration project. This is a good use of fire.

Fire has likely been an important presence on other sites, including the shallow, rocky, dry soils of the Tallulah Dome and the similar ridge tops of the Armuchee Ranger District. (The past presence of longleaf pine, a fire-dependent species, on the Armuchee is more evidence of fire there.) Back on the eastern side of the forest, the dry, south-aspect slopes rising from the piedmont to the Blue Ridge are sometimes dominated by pine-hardwood forests, and are another likely

(continued on page 17)

New Field Guide to Fishes of the Conasauga Available

There are wild buffalo in Northwest Georgia, but not the kind with hooves and horns. The smallmouth buffalo is one of the dozens of fish species in the Conasauga basin described in a new field guide available through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division (WRD).

Residents of Northwest Georgia can learn more about the diverse wildlife of this river by picking up a free copy of the Field Guide to Fishes of the Conasauga River System. The publication was printed with funding from the Conasauga River Alliance, Georgia College & State University, Georgia Power Company, The Environmental Resource Network (TERN), Trout Unlimited - Coosa Valley Chapter, U.S. Forest Service, and WRD. The co-authors are Christopher Skelton, professor of Biological and Environmental Sciences at Georgia College & State University, and WRD Wildlife Biologist Brett Albanese.

"From common species like the bluegill to rare fishes like the federally endangered amber darter, the Conasauga River is teeming with an array of aquatic life," said Albanese. "Residents of Northwest Georgia may be surprised to learn how many different types of fish are found in their own backyard."
The guide provides photos of each fish species, along with a description and a range map showing locations where each species has been documented in the basin. The book documents snakelike lampreys, brightly colored darters and minnows, and the prehistoric-looking lake sturgeon. Also included are popular sport fish such as trout, catfish and bass.

"We hope that the fascinating species described in this guide will encourage citizens and conservation groups to help protect the Conasauga and its watershed," Skelton said.

The headwaters of the scenic Conasauga are located in the Cohutta Wilderness of the Chattahoochee National Forest. The river, like many systems in the greater Mobile River Basin, is renowned for supporting a variety of mussels, snails, crayfishes and fishes. About 90 fish species currently live, or once lived, in the Conasauga. Many of these are endemic, or found only in the Mobile Basin. The Conasauga flows north into Tennessee before turning south through Georgia. It joins the Coosawattee near Calhoun to form the Oostanaula River.

Threats to species in the Conasauga include sedimentation, pollution from chemicals, and the introduction of non-native species such as the red shiner.

The free guides can be picked up at the following locations:
1. Conasauga River Alliance office (inside Limestone Valley RC&D Bldg.), 125 Red Bud Road, Calhoun. (706) 625-7044.

2. WRD Northwest Region Fisheries Management Office, 312 N. River St. NW, Calhoun. (706) 624-1161.

3. U.S. Forest Service, Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District Office, 3941 Highway 76, Chatsworth. (706) 695-2661. ■

(continued from page 16)

place for fire. Close to Bakers Branch, above Batesville, is a large stand composed partly of pitch pines, yet another fire-dependent species. At Popcorn Glade, in Rabun County, a serpentine barren has created a large cedar opening that would benefit from fire.

Still, many parts of the forest should not be burned at all, especially those in the core of the Blue Ridge. Fire has no business in the Rich Mountains, with their fertile, deep soils and lush plant cover. No drip torch should ever be applied to any north-facing cove, either.

The largest questions are about areas that lie between these extremes. Until now, the Forest Service has burned randomly on the Chattahoochee, more as a wildfire prevention measure than for any ecological restoration. The Fire Service needs to devise a systematic plan that respects the land and starts on a small, experimental scale. It needs to burn first and most often in those areas where fires have clearly burned repeatedly in the past. It needs to avoid those areas where fires have never burned. In the remaining areas, it needs to burn systematically, on a small scale, and monitor the results. Only when those results prove beneficial should it proceed on a larger scale.

H. H. Chapman, one of the foresters who called for fire in the longleaf pines, said it best: "between proper use of fire and promiscuous burning there is all the difference between success and failure." ■

"The Brent Martin Years"

(continued from page 13)

Ultimately, with gentle persuasion from Kibler, Martin and Barnhill, the ForestWatch board approved the merger – but not before some members decided to end their relationship with the group. "We kept talking to them, though, and were able to bring them back into the fold within a year when they realized that the merger was indeed a good thing for Georgia ForestWatch," Martin said.

And, now, Martin had a new job – Georgia ForestWatch's first salaried chief executive officer. His wife Angela, a musician by profession, would be the assistant director and succeed him as district leader for the Armuchee.

Georgia ForestWatch photo

At the time, the Forest Service was proposing a timber sale that would have actually cut over this trail in places. The Pinhoti Trail had not been established yet, and the Chickamauca was one of the few foot-only trails in the entire ranger district. Brent Martin's negotiations brought about a less impactful point of compromise.

They had to make another move – to Ellijay, where ForestWatch's rented offices were located on the second floor of a building on River Street, just before the town square. The quarters required considerable face lift and furnishings for transformation into a suitable work space. "Lord, how we worked to make that place habitable," Martin recalled. It was capped off when a local artist crafted a large wooden sign, emblazoned "Georgia ForestWatch," and hung it below the front street window.

> ... "I knew that a strong organization was critical to our success in North Georgia ... and we had to get our name out there before the public" ...

Then, the Martins rolled up their sleeves and got down to some really hard work. Brent picked up where he had left off as ForestWatch president – securing funding, getting the board on track and molding the organization into a prominent organization for protecting, preserving and restoring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests. "I knew that a strong organization was critical to our success in North Georgia," he said. "And we had to get our name out there before the public." A new board was created from residents of local communities and from the Atlanta area. No longer would it be made up primarily of district leaders, although they would have a representative on the panel. Regular outings were scheduled and led by staff members and volunteers. Richard Ware, a highly knowledgeable self-taught botanist, led several of the early outings.

Martin plunged into fundraising. Lyndhurst, Merck and Turner continued their support, and the Sapelo and Atlanta Community foundations were added.

At the same time, looming on ForestWatch's agenda was the planning for the new Forest Land and Resources Management plan, then in its third year of development. Like the first plan, the new blueprint would guide Forest Service management of the national forests for the next 10-15 years. Under Martin's leadership, ForestWatch focused much of its efforts on accumulating and providing the Forest Service with data and information that the organization thought important in formulating the new plan.

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18)

As part of that effort, ForestWatch hired Katherine Medlock, an aquatic biologist, in 1999 to work on the aquatic standards in the new plan. Until then, Angela Martin had been handling the aquatic biology work. "If we were going to be a credible organization, we had to have good science backing us," Brent Martin said.

The Forest Service released the final 1,800-page draft management plan in 2003, but it was a major disappointment to ForestWatch. Kelly Ridge and Mountaintown, which had been recommended for wilderness status in earlier drafts, were no longer slated for such protection. The old growth data also were not incorporated, and the agency's proposed forest monitoring program was considered inadequate. In addition, some 400,000 acres were deemed suitable for construction of ATV trails.

Medlock (now Groves), working closely with legal partners Southern Environmental Law Center and WildLaw, wrote an extensive and stinging appeal. The Forest Service was required by law to address the appeal in three months which actually took a year and a half for the chief of the forest service to reject. But as heads cooled it was generally agreed that the plan overall had some good points and was better than the current 1986 plan. The new management plan seemed to eschew the old commercial clear-cut timber program for an approach that claimed to address issues of "forest health" with timber harvested as an outcome of forest health improvement. This was certainly an about face from the prior management direction and seen as a reaction to the 1996 legal decision that halted the old clear-cut regime.

In August 2003, Brent and Angela Martin, in a painful decision, felt it was time to move on. The Little Tennessee Land Trust in Franklin, N.C., was asking Brent to come on board, and he accepted. "I was very proud of my accomplishments at Georgia ForestWatch," Brent said. "I was not getting rich at such work, and I was barely keeping my head above water. But I believed in what we were doing, and I believed in the capacity of the organization.

"It was a very hard decision to leave ForestWatch, but the Land Trust offered a good opportunity to learn an entirely new realm of land conservation.

"I was ready for a new challenge." ■

(Editor's note: Martin subsequently moved on from the land trust to briefly head the Little Tennessee Watershed Association and has since moved on again to assume a fulltime position, also in Franklin, as The Wilderness Society's first Southern Appalachian Senior Associate, responsible primarily for seeking permanent protection of wilderness and backcountry wild lands in the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest.)

The Martin era at Georgia ForestWatch was characterized by a series of key developments and projects:

- In 1999, Martin hired Katherine Medlock, an aquatic biologist, to help work on development of the new forest management plan. This brought immediate scientific credibility to the organization's advocacy efforts.
- With Medlock's help, and that of several foundations, Georgia ForestWatch surveyed goldline darters in the Coosawattee River and salamanders in the Swallow Creek area of the fabled Kelly Ridge area in order to try to secure greater protection for these areas.
- Martin hired Jess Riddle, a young expert woodsman who in three summers documented – after more than 80 hours of bushwhacking through thick territory – more than 11,000 acres of old growth that the Forest Service contended had not existed on the Chattahoochee National Forest. "Documenting those old growth stands was one of my most satisfying times at Georgia ForestWatch," Martin said.
- Martin also stayed on top of the day-to-day protection of the forest to ward off threats that cropped up almost on a regular basis. He helped lead successful battles to force the Tennessee Valley Authority to move a power line out of the potential Rocky Face roadless area; to combat a proposed military helicopter drop zone near the Ed Jenkins National Recreation Area; and to defeat a resolution by the Gilmer County Commissioners asking Congress to ban further wilderness areas.
- With the help of ForestWatchers David Govus and Wayne Jenkins, Martin documented hundreds of miles of illegal ATV trails, which had gouged deep gullies into the mountain landscapes, wreaking havoc on stately trees, ripping up rare wildflowers and silting up once crystal-clear trout streams. The damage ran into millions of dollars. Martin took reporters on tours of some of the ATV-damaged areas, and several articles and photos appeared in state-wide newspapers documenting the massive problems. Govus also helped defeat measures in the Georgia Legislature that would have legalized ATVs on gravel roads and made it even more difficult to control their use.

Georgia ForestWatch welcomes the following new members

Atlanta Woman's Club
Millie Bayne, Mountain High Hikers
E. Milton and Paula Lawton Bevington
Jay and Katy Calloway
James and Debra Campbell
Jerry Converse
Larry and Lois Curry
Eric Eades
Ken Estes
David Gardner
Robert Goldstein
Gary and Elizabeth Granger
Carolyn and Tom Hodges
E. Alan Johnson
Kirk Knous
E. Cody Laird
Fred Levick, Ramah Darom Inc.
Gerald Lowrey
Rosalind Meyers
Karen McCracken
Gary Monk
David Pope, Southern Environmental Law Center
Lindsay Pullen
George and Nancy Rivers
Jenny Sanders, Little Tennessee Watershed Association
Cynthia Strain
Bill and Lynda Talmadge
Margaretta Taylor
Virginia Webb
Kay Wylie

To e-mail or not to e-mail?

You now have the option to receive the quarterly Forest News by e-mail only. If you would like to forego receiving a printed copy, please let us know at info@gafw.org and we'll put you on the e-mail-only list.

Similarly, if your e-mail address has recently changed, or if you are not already receiving our Outing Alerts and Action Alerts by e-mail, please provide us with your e-mail address at info@gafw.org.

Use of these e-mail addresses are guided by the Georgia ForestWatch privacy policy, found at www.gafw.org.

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