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Online Auction Opening Tonight

Georgia ForestWatch's annual online auction will go live in a few hours at 7:00 p.m. and will be open through Sunday, October 9, 2022. This important fundraiser and our annual retreat provide much-needed support to cover the organization's expenses until funds from our year-end appeal reach our mailbox in late November.

Auction items include kayaking, guided fishing trips, pottery, original artwork, jewelry, Air BnB stays, and more. [You can see everything here](#), and remember to log in starting this weekend to place your bid.

Bidding will end on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. GAFW sends a special thank you to everyone who donated auction items.

Wheels for Boots Update



GAFW currently has \$10,606.92 in restricted reserves from our Wheels for Boots 2020 appeal. For those of you who have given to this important appeal, we cannot thank you enough for your support. However, based on the needs of the organization and the steady cost increase of vehicles, we are formally ending our campaign to purchase a truck. In the future, depending upon the organization's needs, we may restart this dedicated campaign.

At this time, GAFW is asking those donors who contributed to this fundraiser to allow the organization to remove the restriction on these funds and allow them to be used for general operating costs. If you approve, there is no action needed on your part; however, if you choose to have your dedicated contribution returned to, you please let us know at donations@gafw.org.

Despite the lack of sufficient funding, we need of a vehicle to assist with the many field visits we conduct, and if you would like to donate a vehicle to GAFW, please let us know at donations@gafw.org. We are open to receiving any vehicle (no specific need for a truck or high clearance) if it is somewhat dependable. Thank you again for your support.

Volunteers Needed



Only four more weekends left to help monitor and record visitors to the most popular Wilderness areas in the forest this year.

If you are interested in hiking Woody Gap or Blood Mountain on an upcoming weekend in October [SIGN UP HERE](#).

Not to be missed events



Foothills Landscape Project Meeting –The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests will host its first annual stakeholder meeting for **Foothills Landscape Project (FLP)** implementation on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at **Cohutta Springs** in Crandall, Ga., from 1p.m. – 4p.m. USFS staff will share project updates and initial plans for the upcoming year, including the **draft Implementation Plan for the Mooneyham Implementation Area** that includes prescribed burning, commercial timber sales and thinning, herbicidal applications, and stream enhancements on over 3,225 acres in the Mooneyham region of the Conasauga Ranger District next to the Cohutta Wilderness.

More analysis from GAFW is to come before the meeting, but please save the date and attend if possible. We will let you know if a virtual attendance option is made available. **The USFS indicates this large project will not be publicized for public comment, and your only opportunity to provide input is during this scheduled meeting.**

Waitlist for Retreat – Due to the dynamic nature of events, we have newly opened spots on our waitlist for our annual member retreat at Lake Winfield Scott on Saturday, October 15, 2022. If you are interested in attending but could not register before registration closed, you can **[add your name to the waitlist here.](#)**

The Wurst Hike Ever – How about a short **hike** before the Wurst Festival on Saturday, October 22? Afterward, the entire group will join the rest of us at the festival for lunch, beer, and music. The hike will be free, but you must purchase a **[ticket to attend the Wurst Festival.](#)** You can register for the hike **[here](#)** or on our new **Meetup** platform.

Wurst Festival – Tickets are available now for the Wurst Festival at **Fannin Brewing Company** on Saturday, October 22, 2022. **[Order your tickets to attend now.](#)** All proceeds support GAFW, and we thank Fannin Brewing Company for hosting and supporting this fundraiser.

Hemlock Fest – Stop by our table on November 4-6 at Cherokee Farms in supporting the **Lumpkin Coalition's** fundraiser to address the parasitic Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) that is killing Georgia's beautiful Hemlocks. **[Tickets and more info here.](#)**

We Are Now on Meetup



Thank you for your input on GAFW joining the [Meetup](#) platform to streamline our event and Outings registrations. If you are not already a Meetup member you can [join for free](#) and after joining you can [follow GAFW](#) to see all of our upcoming events and Outings.

As always we will share our [events and Outings on our website](#) and newsletter but going forward you will need to register for the event on the Meetup site.

Our first three events have already been posted:

[Foothills Landscape Project Public Meeting](#)

[The Wurst Hike Ever](#)

[The Wurst Festival Ever](#)

Please take a moment to register today. We look forward to seeing more of you in the near future.

We are looking for your insight and feedback



Georgia ForestWatch prides itself on being an organization that pursues our mission of **enhancing the health of over 867,000 acres of Georgia's national forest by protecting our forests and streams, advocating for natural processes, and identifying opportunities to improve forest management** through the support of our members and the community. It is only through the financial generosity of our members that we exist.

Thank you to all our members – you are not just a part of the organization; **you ARE the organization**. As such, we take your input sincerely and in earnest. We are asking for your anonymous input to help guide the very limited resources of the organization in the correct direction.

Please complete [this eleven-question survey](#) at your convenience.

If this email was forwarded to you, [please register here](#) to receive GAFW updates.

Thank You

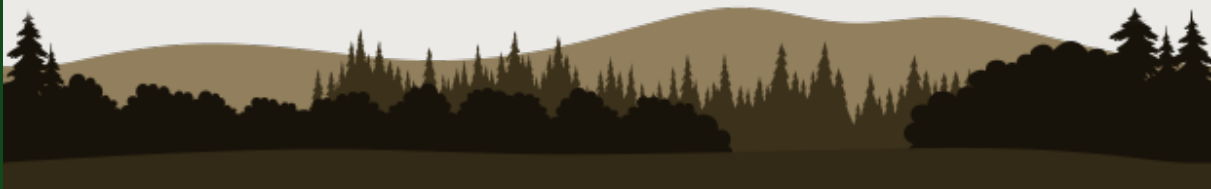
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

Please support our mission by ensuring your [membership is up to date](#) and providing [additional support](#) as you are able.

On behalf of our entire national forests in our beautiful state, we thank you for your support.

Our Mission

Our mission is to enhance the health of over 867,000 acres of Georgia's national forest by protecting our forests and streams, advocating for natural processes, and identifying opportunities to improve forest management. Visit [Georgia ForestWatch](#) (GAFW) to learn more.



Connect with us



Georgia Forestwatch | 81 Crown Mtn Place, Building C, Suite 200, Dahlonega, GA 30533

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