GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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Become a Sustaining Donor before you disappear for the Winter

Thank you to all who have graciously donated towards our year-end appeal thus far. If you have not done so, please consider becoming a recurring donor. While we are eternally thankful for any support, a recurring monthly donation allows GAFW to budget for smoother operations and avoid the fluctuations that stem from month-to-month fundraising. Becoming a sustaining donor is easy – simply go to our **donation page and check the box to "Make this donation monthly."** Then rest easy knowing that you are making a difference in how our forests are sustainably managed and that your membership with GAFW is always up-to-date and active.

Donate Today

The Len Foote Hike Inn

Nestled in the north Georgia mountains, not far from Amicalola Falls and Springer Mountain, is the **Len Foote Hike Inn**. It is known as The Inn to those who have visited and supported this magical place. It is open year-round and a sustainably designed Georgia State Park facility nestled in the Chattahoochee National Forest. Its four main buildings offer twenty private guest rooms, hot showers, fresh linens, and home-cooked meals. The Hike Inn's mission is to make experiencing nature easy and help protect it through education and recreation.

Who is Len Foote? Leonard E. Foote is not accidentally linked with the Hike Inn's unique backcountry setting, commitment to the outdoors, and mission of teaching conservation ethics, outdoor safety, and wilderness preservation. Leonard was a leading conservationist, biologist, and nature photographer who lived and worked in Georgia until his death in May 1989. Leonard Foote was a man of many talents and abilities devoted to preserving and studying the beauty of the outdoors.

For an experience you will never forget and a discounted rate, please join GAFW on our annual overnight outing to The Inn on Monday February 6, 2023. **More information and instructions on how to register are here**.

Thank You to Lyn and Andrew

It is bittersweet for GAFW to say goodbye to two of our most valued staff. Office Manager Lyn Hopper will be leaving in December, and Outreach Coordinator Andrew Linker will leave in January.

Andrew came to GAFW bringing enthusiasm and positive energy that rubbed off on everyone with whom he worked. His ferocious hunger to learn about the forest and its management resulted in him quickly becoming one of GAFW's best ambassadors. He coordinated an incredible array of Outings, from Community Science projects to pure fun times in the woods, including trout stream monitoring, ivy pulls, Bartram Trail series hikes, lichen hikes, geology hikes, old-growth hikes. The list could go on.

Andrew's passion for GAFW's mission was evident in his desire to learn more about the forest and his willingness to take on tasks beyond the duties of an outreach coordinator, including many tech issues. He also approached his job at ForestWatch with rare thoughtfulness, attention to detail, and a long-term perspective. That approach led to smooth outings and events for members, and ForestWatch will continue to benefit for years from the processes and feedback systems he put into place.

We will miss him in many ways, but we're happy he can pursue his farming dreams full-time.

Lyn has remarked that she has "failed at retirement" multiple times – but those "failures" have been a big success for Georgia ForestWatch.

Before coming out of retirement to serve GAFW, she was a library consultant and Assistant Georgia State Librarian for Library Development, and worked for 25 years as a public library administrator, serving as Director of Chestatee Regional Library System from 1997 to 2006, a volunteer Office Manager at the local Unitarian Church, and the volunteer Office Manager for the Lumpkin County Literary Coalition.

Over the past seven years, Lyn has been the office manager par excellence for GAFW. At various times during her tenure, she's handled or provided major assistance with accounting, bookkeeping, the membership program, payroll, newsletter production, outings, and annual events. Lyn has also served as the "first voice" who new people meet and talk to at GAFW, among myriad other duties. She has been an office manager who could have just as ably been the CEO, CFO, and COO of GAFW. And she's done all this with a selflessness and community spirit that has inspired others.

Lyn will be missed in the day-to-day of the GAFW office, but we hope to hold onto her as a member and active volunteer.

If this email was forwarded to you, please register here to receive GAFW updates.

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Thank You

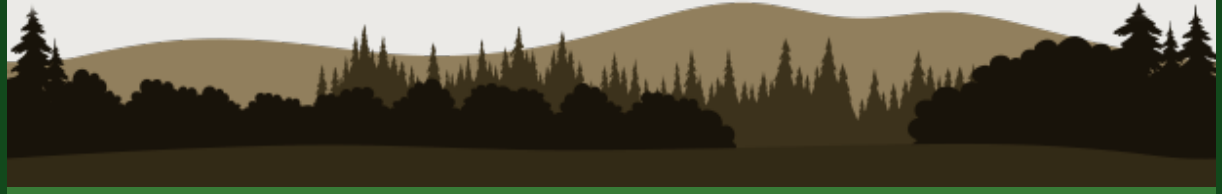
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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.



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