GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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The Second Wurst Festival Ever is Saturday, October 21

Come to the Second Wurst Festival you have ever attended!

Join Georgia ForestWatch on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the **Fannin Brewing Company** at 3758 East First Street, Blue Ridge, GA 30513.

Enjoy a day of friends, beer, and German-style sausages.

All proceeds from the ticket sales go to support Georgia ForestWatch. Come hang out with the GAFW gang.

Discounted Presale Ticket Price of $20 gets you:
* A special Wurst Festival glass.
* Free first beer. Cash sales after.
* One fantastic sausage. Additional sausages for sale after. Artisan sausages from some of the best Sausage makers around.
* Dogs and kids welcome.

This is a rain-or-shine event—no refunds on tickets.

Tickets will be available at the door for $25

Wurst Tickets Ever

Thank You for a Successful Retreat

Thank you to everyone who attended the 2023 Georgia ForestWatch Annual Retreat at Red Top Mountain State Park on Saturday. The new location allowed us to increase our ticket sales and provide ample room inside for a larger crowd. Thanks to all our event sponsors, volunteers, speakers, auction donors, board and staff, and Outing leaders.

We sincerely hope those who attended enjoyed the event and the beautiful fall weather. If you did not attend, we look forward to seeing you next year and ask that everyone please hold **Saturday, October 12, 2024**, on your calendars.

Whether you attended the retreat or not, we are asking for a few seconds of your time to provide anonymous input using **this online survey**, which will be used to make next year's retreat even better.

Leave No Trace Training

You love to venture out on a hike to enjoy all the surrounding landscape has to offer – secluded forests, cascading waterfalls, scenic vistas, iconic landmarks, and more. But have you thought about how your hike may affect the trail? Have you considered the impact of 1,000 people/week taking that same journey on the narrow pathway? Do they leave trash, damage the forest …, or perhaps disturb the wildlife?

If you would like to learn how to do your part to preserve the natural areas you love, there's a simple solution: make less of an impact. To help you do that, Leave No Trace offers a FREE course that will help you develop the knowledge and skillset to leave not a trace of your visit to the forest.

According to statistics, one person trained in Leave No Trace is five times more likely to protect nature. ONE person, trained in the Leave No Trace precepts, will go on to educate 256 additional people!

This course is your chance to become proficient in applying the principles of Leave No Trace.

- What is the #1 thing folks can start doing today to Leave No Trace in nature?
- What are most people surprised to learn during Leave No Trace training?
- Which of the Seven Principles do you think gets overlooked the most?
- What should folks do when they see someone not following one of the

principles?

The new, free online course, **Leave No Trace 101**, is for everyone who wants to be more environmentally aware when recreating outdoors. Please enroll today.

Biomass is Not "Green Energy"

The US South is the world's largest exporter of wood pellets. Our forests burn in power stations across Europe and Asia under the guise of "green" energy.

The wood pellet industry hopes to double its production across the South. Join GAFW, partner **Dogwood Alliance,** and local communities to fight against this polluting industry.

Wood pellet producers **Enviva** and **Drax** plan to massively expand in the Southern US over the next few years. There is clear scientific evidence that the industry's sustainability claims are fake. These companies are accelerating climate change. Burning wood from our forests emits **more CO2 than coal**.

It takes many decades or centuries for forests to capture lost carbon. Biomass pellet mills are 50% more likely to be in environmental justice communities. The NAACP has deemed biomass a "**clearcut example of environmental racism** ."

Now is the time to protect forests. Now is the time to invest in climate resiliency and communities suffering from industrial logging.

Go here to add your voice to this crucial action.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

Saturday, October 21 - **The Second Wurst Festival Ever** , Fannin Brewing Company, Blue Ridge, GA **Tickets are on sale now!**

Thursday, October 26 - **GAFW Book Club Meeting** , Zoom (*Haints on Black Mountain* by Ann Hite)

Friday, October 27 - Outing! Core Preserve at Lula Lake Land Trust

Wednesday, November 15th - **Outing! Geology Hike to Ravens Cliffs Falls with Bill**

Thursday, November 30 - **GAFW Book Club Meeting** , Zoom (*Literary Field Guide to Southern Appalachia,* Edited by Rose McLarney, Laura-Gray Street, and L. L. Gaddy)

Thursday, December 14th - Outing! Geology Hike along Johns Mountain to Keown Falls

Thursday, December 28 - GAFW Book Club Meeting, Zoom (*The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare* by Kimberly Brock)

GAFW Outings on Meetup

Donate to GAFW Today

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

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Thank You

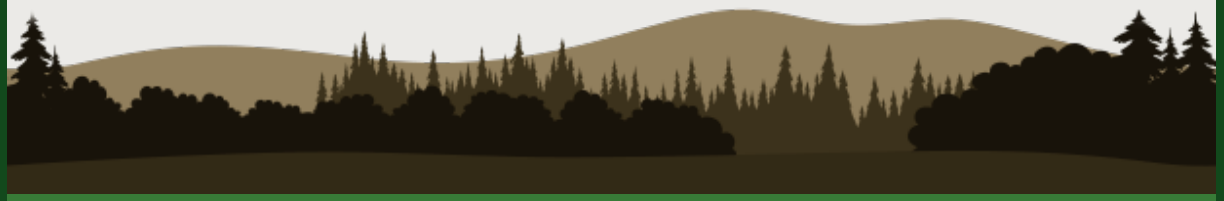
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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 preserve and protect our national forests.



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