GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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The American Chestnut Foundation

The **Georgia chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation** (TACF) mission is *to bring about the restoration of the American chestnut tree as a prominent part of Georgia forests.*

The Georgia Chapter was founded to bring about the restoration of the American chestnut tree as a prominent part of Georgia forests by assisting the national foundation in its propagation efforts, by promoting public awareness through education and supporting the scientific research efforts of TACF directed at restoring American chestnuts.

In addition to the GA TACF **40th anniversary event**, there is a volunteer opportunity at the Flint orchard in **Waleska, GA**, today - November 7th!

They will be planting around 100 seedlings and applying chicken wire to prevent the new seedlings from becoming rabbit food. They need about 15 helpers to help install the chicken wire and plant the seedlings. They will meet at 11 AM at the work shed area and carpool to the orchard site. Bring gloves, a snack if desired, appropriate clothing, and footwear for the orchard; it may be muddy. The GA TACF will provide water, materials, and tools. Please let **kylie.stover@reinhardt.edu** know if you can assist.

Updates from Around the Forest & More

As leaves blanket your yard this fall, it may be tempting to clear all of them away. But leaf litter can be a crucial winter home for small mammals, insects, and amphibians. Fallen leaves provide warmth, protection, and even food that help these animals survive the harsh winter months. The next time you clean up the yard, **leave some leaves for wildlife**. Learn more in the American Museum of Natural History's "**Life in the Leaf Litter** ."

The recently released **Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine (2025-2040)** explores the progress and outlook of **America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative**. The plan notes an increase in longleaf forests in the Southeast from 3.4 million to approximately 5.2 million acres, with the goal still set at 8 million.

Next month marks the 50th anniversary of the **Endangered Species Act** – an important legal tool for protecting imperiled Southern species and their habitat. Since its passage in 1973, The **Southern Environmental Law Center** (SELC) has seen a nearly 99% success in preventing the loss of animals and plants protected under the law**,** including the iconic bald eagle and American alligator. In honor of this important milestone, here are three ways you can take action and **support SELC's wildlife work**.

Tricolored and long-eared bat populations hibernating in north Georgia and Alabama **declined more than 90%** over five years after white-nose syndrome was detected in 2013, with tricolored counts later stabilizing, according to analysis published in **The Journal of Wildlife Management** .

Ongoing drought conditions leading to elevated wildfire danger across north

Georgia led fire responders to request a **National Fire Prevention Education Team** to promote fire and public safety in the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. "The National Fire Prevention Education Team works in communities to share Smokey Bear's message to help prevent human-caused fires," said Mike Davis, fire management officer for the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. "We need everyone's help to keep our Forest visitors and Georgia communities safe until the weather moderates, and we receive significant rainfall," Davis continued. During this time, it will take all of us working together to keep our communities and forests wildfire-free. "When enjoying your public lands, be sure your campfire is 'dead-out' and cold to touch. Never leave your burn pile; always have a shovel and water source nearby. These simple actions can prevent human-caused wildfires," said Mary Leathers, National Fire Prevention Education Team Lead.

U.S. House Agriculture Committee ranking member **David Scott** (GA 13) calls for a **One-Year Extension of the 2018 Farm Bill.** Representative Scott emphasized the importance of passing a five-year reauthorization of the farm bill and **called to extend the 2018 Farm Bill** to offer certainty and support while the house continues working on a bipartisan five-year farm bill.

Upcoming Forest Protection Forum on November 20th: " **The Battle to Protect the Russian River Redwoods: Lessons Learned from a Successful Campaign**." In 2020, a plan was proposed to log 224 acres of redwoods and Douglas firs along the Russian River in Sonoma County, California. Local residents and community members joined forces in the Guerneville Forest Coalition group to fight the timber harvest plan. **Register here** to learn how the project was delayed, support was built for conservation efforts and work with various stakeholders to secure a positive outcome.

Let north **GA U.S. Congressperson Andrew Clyde know** you do not support his co-sponsorship of **H.R.6215**. A bill "to prohibit federal funds from being made available for the **Justice40 Initiative** or the **American Climate Corps**". The Justice40 Initiative sets a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. The Climate Corps initiative is intended to train young people in high-demand skills for jobs in the clean energy economy and put a new generation of Americans to work conserving our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, advancing environmental justice, deploying clean energy, implementing energy-efficient technologies, and tackling climate change. **Learn more here**.

The Georgia Water Coalition's **2023 Clean 13 Report** highlights extraordinary efforts on the part of businesses, industries, local governments, non-profit organizations, and individuals to protect Georgia's water and natural resources. This year's Clean 13 Report highlights and recognizes the organizations, elected officials, corporations, and individuals across the state who are committed to swimmable, drinkable, fishable water.

Join the **Forest Stewards Guild** for an evening learning how to keep forests as forests in an online presentation, "**Keeping Forests as Forests: Tax programs and other incentives for the Georgia landowner,**" on November 16. Presentations by experts on tax incentive programs, conservation easements, and carbon markets. Come prepared with questions about your land! **Register here**.

Register now for an in-person **Climate + Equity Conversation** at Agnes Scott College on November 14. When it comes to scaling climate solutions, we believe that true

success can only be achieved when all Georgians can help guide our low-carbon future and benefit from it as well. How do we get there? Join us to hear from voices at the forefront of this work in Georgia.

Join **Trees Atlanta** and the **Old-Growth Forest Network** for a "**Carbon Sequestration in Old Growth Forests**" talk on November 16 at the Kendeda TreeHouse. Speaker Sarah Adloo is the Executive Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network. Her Speaker Series talk "Wild Forests and Wild Carbon" advocates for older forests that store significant amounts of carbon and have benefits different from planting new trees. **Register here**.

Conservation groups petition the U.S. Forest Service for stronger wetland protections. WildEarth Guardians, Wilderness Workshop, and more than 25 other environmental organizations petitioned the U.S. Forest Service to strengthen legal protections for important wetland ecosystems known as fens. This petition follows a new rule announced by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army in August, which removes Clean Water Act protections from nonpermanent waterways and wetlands without a continuous surface connection to other covered waters. Under this new rule, which follows the May 2023 Supreme Court decision in Sackett v. EPA, fen ecosystems are likely to lose Clean Water Act protections and become more vulnerable to development and other threats.

A **study done earlier this year by the Swan View Coalition** claims that the USFS is **overstating the effectiveness of road closure devices** in the Flathead National Forest. In its previous documentation, the Forest Service claims that gates, berms, and other road closure devices are about 92% effective in keeping motorized use off closed roads. The Swan View Coalition, in turn, claims that percentage is far worse — at least on the 300-plus closure devices it examined in the summer of 2022 on the Swan View Valley Geographic area.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

Saturday, November 11 - Tabling at Boy Scouts Conservation event, 11 am- 1:30 pm

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

Saturday, November 18 - Outing! Trail Maintenance with Mountain High Hikers

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 7th - Outing! Warwoman Waterfall Hike with Clayton

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

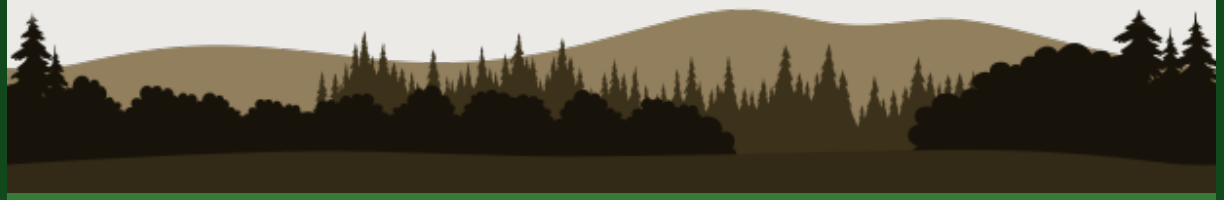
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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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