GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

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Georgia Adopt-A-Stream
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

GAFW is proud to partner with **The Upper Etowah River Alliance** (UERA). The Upper Etowah River Watershed encompasses 610 square miles or 390,400 acres. It includes parts of five counties — Lumpkin, Pickens, Dawson, Forsyth, and Cherokee — and over 100 tributaries, including Shoal, Amicalola, Yellow, Setting Down, Long Swamp, and Sharp Mountain creeks. The river begins in the mountains near Dahlonega and runs 98 miles until it reaches Lake Allatoona.

This is only a fraction of the Etowah Basin, which drains approximately 1,858 square miles and includes all 150 miles of river.

With 76 native fish species, the Etowah watershed is biologically one of the richest river systems IN THE WORLD!

It is one of the most imperiled river basins as well. We have already lost 15 fish species since the first biological inventories were done in the late 1800s.

Interested in monitoring the health of the river? The Upper Etowah River Alliance needs sites monitored on the main stem of the Etowah River and tributaries in Northern Cherokee, Pickens, Forsyth, Dawson, and Lumpkin counties.

Join us at the Upper Etowah River Alliance in Canton for a Georgia Adopt-A-Stream chemical and bacteria QA/QC workshop. We will cover pH, conductivity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, alkalinity, and turbidity for chemical monitoring. We will also cover bacteria collection, plating, and counting for bacteria monitoring.

Register today. We hope to see you there!

Citizens' Climate Lobby

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GAFW is excited to partner with **Citizens' Climate Lobby** and support its work in building the political will for a livable world.

We believe action in Congress is critical to addressing climate change and that Congress will only act if they hear that we, their constituents, want them to act.

Congressional offices tell us that they don't hear often enough about climate from their constituents, and so they think it is not a priority. But we can change that. Please take a few minutes to **write** or **call** your members of Congress and ask them to take action now to build a clean and prosperous future for all. This simple action sends a clear message to Congress and is a great step in getting more empowered in our democracy.

You can also get more information about Citizens' Climate Lobby and how they work by **joining a Weekly Info Session** every Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern time. If you can't join the Info Session live, you can **watch or listen to a recorded version** after you RSVP.

Thanks for all you do for the climate.

Georgia's Governor Extends State Fuel Tax Break Again

Governor Brian Kemp has again opted "**to suspend the collection of state motor fuel taxes**," effectively subsidizing air pollution, **climate change**, and dirty fuel. The biggest recipients of this subsidy are those who burn the most gas and diesel in their

oversized, inefficient, gas-guzzling vehicles. The funding used in lieu of taxes comes from the state's hefty **$16B financial reserves** that could be used to make a generational change in how the state cares for its most vulnerable. The 31.2 cents per gallon of gas and 35 cents per gallon for diesel taxes also do not necessarily get passed onto the consumer as the gas station benefits from not paying the tax. They are under no obligation to pass it along to the consumer.

GAFW is asking you to let Governor Kemp know that you disapprove of subsidizing the fossil fuel industry. You can call him at 404 656 1776 or **email him here.** Frustratingly, you will notice when you call or attempt to email that Governor Kemp makes it difficult for constituents to let him know how they feel about policy. His phone number and online email form are formatted solely for "constituent services." When you choose "environment" from the drop-down menu, it initially directs you to the **Environmental Protection Division**. If you choose to continue, it only allows you 450 characters (including spaces) to submit your concerns.

Here is a 450-character draft you can use.

I am a constituent who disapproves of the motor fuel tax extension and ask that you repeal the Executive Order entitled "Renewal of State of Emergency for Inflation," dated 11/8/23. Climate change is the most pressing issue facing humanity, and we should be focused on using our resources to address the climate crises, not subsidizing the fossil fuel industry and those who inefficiently burn the most gas.

Heartfelt Thanks to Anne Heikkila for Leadership as Board President

We express our deepest gratitude for Anne's outstanding service as our Board President. Her tenure has been marked by a remarkable commitment to excellence, tireless dedication, and an unwavering passion for our organization's mission.

Under Anne's leadership, we have achieved significant milestones and navigated challenges with resilience and grace. Her vision has been instrumental in shaping the direction of our organization, and her strategic insights have left an indelible mark on our collective achievements.

Beyond her professional contributions, her personal qualities have made a lasting impact on all of us fortunate enough to work alongside her. Her kindness, approachability, and willingness to listen have created a positive and inclusive atmosphere that has enhanced the collaborative spirit of our team.

The foundation she laid and the example she set will serve as a guiding light for all who follow in your footsteps. We are immensely grateful for the time, energy, and passion that has been devoted to our organization.

We wish her a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.

May this next chapter of your life be as rewarding and fulfilling as the legacy you leave behind. Thank you, once again, for your extraordinary leadership.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

Friday, November 24 - **Opt Outside Day**

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)

Saturday, December 2 - **Adopt-A-Stream Workshop with Lori**

Thursday, December 7 - **Outing! Warwoman Waterfall Hike with Clayton**

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

Wednesday, December 20 - **Outing! Indian Seats Loop at Sawnee Mountain Preserve**

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

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Thank You

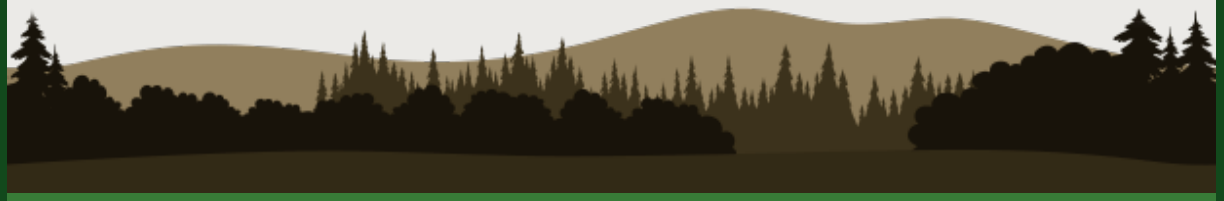
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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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