GEORGIA FORESTWATCH
PRESERVE PROTECT RESTORE GAFW.ORG

December 5, 2023

FORESTWATCH JOURNAL

Volume 2, Issue 41

New and Renewing Members

Those of you who are active members of Georgia ForestWatch received your copy of our quarterly *Forest News* in the mail this week, and we thank you for your ongoing

support. For those who are not members or have let your membership lapse, **please consider joining GAFW** to support **our mission of protecting and preserving our national forests**.

In addition to resting easy knowing that you are making a difference in how our forests are sustainably managed, memberships are always up-to-date and active for all GAFW recurring donors. Becoming a sustaining donor is easy – go to our **donation page** and check the box to **"Make this donation monthly."**

With a gift membership, you can also share your love and support of our state's national forest land with family, friends, and other loved ones. When choosing a **gift membership**, GAFW will mail the gift membership packet on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, to ensure it reaches the recipient in time for the holidays, or you can choose an earlier date by letting us know at **info@gafw.org**. **Gift memberships** can be selected at any of our membership levels and start as low as $20 for students.

Leave No Trace Principles

Leave No Trace was founded to provide functional resources to preserve and protect nature. The organization accomplishes its mission by providing education, skills, research, and science to help people care for the outdoors. By working with the public and those managing public lands, Leave No Trace focuses on educating people—instead of costly restoration programs or access restrictions—as the most effective and least resource-intensive solution to land protection. To learn more, visit **LNT.org**.

Outreach Coordinator Sara Diaz completed the Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor Course last week. The course emphasizes the skills and techniques essential to Leave No Trace minimum impact ethics and education. The three-day course covered an overview of Leave No Trace principles and in-depth individual student-led presentations discussing one or two assigned principles. As a Level 1 Instructor, Sara can now lead Leave No Trace workshops for GAFW.

Georgia's Adopt-A-Stream

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream is the state's volunteer water quality monitoring program. Volunteers select a site along a local stream, wetland, lake, or estuary to adopt. They regularly monitor their site and submit monitoring data to an online database. GAFW hopes to monitor sites within the Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest.

Recently, GAFW had a great GA Adopt-A-Stream workshop led by Lori Forrester with the **Upper Etowah River Alliance** (UERA). We covered chemical and bacterial monitoring. Members found a potential issue with an Etowah Tributary. As part of

demonstration and practice, we collected a sample from the tributary at Heritage Park and found the E.coli level is well over the action limit of 1000 cfu/100ml. UERA will follow up on the issue.

If you want to monitor a site within the CONF, please **email** us.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

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 28th – Outing! Kennesaw Mountain Trail

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

Have you signed our outing waiver? If not, use this link: **Outing Waiver.**_

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

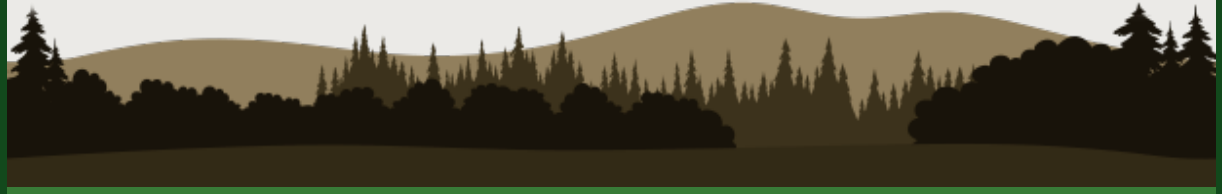
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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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