GEORGIA FORESTWATCH

January 3, 2024

FORESTWATCH JOURNAL

Volume 3, Issue 1

The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation's **Bring One for the Chipper** tree recycling program has been around for 33 years. During that time, organizers said more than six million trees have been diverted from landfills. Last year, The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation network collected 54,066 trees from 123 locations across the state. Of these, 47,883 were recycled into mulch for playgrounds, city and county landscaping projects, and individual homes. One thousand five hundred ninety-six trees were sunk into lakes to provide fish habitats. Three thousand six hundred forty-four were used for fuel or other uses.

This year's "treecycling" event will happen at over 120 locations across the state. The official date is Saturday, January 6, but time frames and date ranges vary by location. **Browse locations here.**

Happy New Year

Thank you to everyone who financially supported GAFW during our year-end fundraising. We are still tabulating year-end gifts and will have a grand total update next week. However, just because it is now 2024, there is no reason not to **donate** still and join/renew your **membership**.

GAFW First Day Hike

Georgia ForestWatch kicked off 2024 with nature's embrace. Our First Day Hike led us through scenic trails (including a bridge engineered by our fearless hosts), weaving stories and creating memories amidst breathtaking landscapes. After the hike, we gathered for a potluck feast at the Vickers home. At a table laden with culinary delights, we shared stories from our adventures and hopes and dreams for the upcoming year.

"Hike leaders and hosts...exceptional. New Year's should be a day of taking care of body and mind...with the desire to protect nature that supports both❤ GAFW promotes this...Folks, you need to join this group!" - Kim B.

"A fabulous hike in one of the most beautiful places in Georgia or anywhere else. Saw three beautiful waterfalls. We had a wonderful Day 1 Pot Luck lunch at the mountain home of our hosts, Keith and Melanie. Thanks to our guide Eddi and her husband parting the waters of Denton Branch, we all stayed dry." - Clayton W.

Habitat, Pollution, Climate Change, Exploitation, & Invasive Species

Photo: Bachman's warbler

… are the primary reasons why, in 2023, the **U.S. declared 21 species officially extinct**. Additionally, unacknowledged by the U.S., the **International Union for Conservation of Nature**, a conservation organization that monitors global species populations, determined that the Java Stingaree (Indonesia) **became the first marine fish species to go extinct due to human activity**. The **UN has found** that the current extinction rate is "at least tens to hundreds of times higher" than extinctions over the past 10 million years.

In 2023, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** declared that it was too late for the following species:

Birds:

- Bachman's warbler (Florida, South Carolina)
- It was determined that the primary factor in the loss of the Bachman's warbler was due to ***"large tracts of old growth bottomland forest were cut."***
- Bridled white-eye (Guam)
- Kauai akialoa (Hawaii)
- Kauai nukupuu (Hawaii)
- Kauaʻi ʻōʻō (Hawaii)
- Large Kauai thrush (Hawaii)
- Maui 'ākepa (Hawaii)
- Maui nukupuʻu (Hawaii)
- Molokai creeper (Hawaii)
- Po'ouli (Hawaii)

Mussels: The primary reasons for the extinction of the mussels was ***"the alteration and destruction of stream habitat due to impoundments for flood control, navigation, hydroelectric power production, and recreation. Siltation is another factor (and) increased silt transport into waterways due to strip mining, coal washing, dredging, farming, logging, and road construction increased turbidity and consequently reduced light penetration."***

- Flat pigtoe (Alabama, Mississippi)
- Southern acornshell (Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee)
- Stirrupshell (Alabama, Mississippi)
- Upland combshell (Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee)

- Green-blossom pearly mussel (Tennessee, Virginia)
- Tubercled-blossom pearly mussel (Alabama, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia)
- Turgid-blossom pearly mussel (Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee)
- Yellow-blossom pearly mussel (Alabama, Tennessee)

Fish:

- San Marcos gambusia (Texas)
- Scioto madtom (Ohio)

Mammal

- Little Mariana fruit bat (Guam)

Going into 2024, over 1,480 endangered or threatened species remain on the Fish and Wildlife Service's list, including **76 federally listed in Georgia** and **330 listed in Georgia** (overlapping) by the GA Department of Natural Resources.

Upcoming GAFW Outings & Outreach

Thursday, January 4 (New Date) – **Outing! Kennesaw Mountain Trail**

Monday, January 15 – **MLK Day of Service Project - Chattahoochee River Clean-up**

Tuesday, January 23 – **Save the Date** - **Outing!** Chattahoochee Nature Center Visit

Thursday, January 25 (New Date!)-- **GAFW Book Club Meeting**, Zoom (*The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare* by Kimberly Brock)

Friday, February 2 – **Len Foote Hike Inn Overnight** - Space is limited!

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.

Share This Email | Share This Email | Share This Email

Thank You

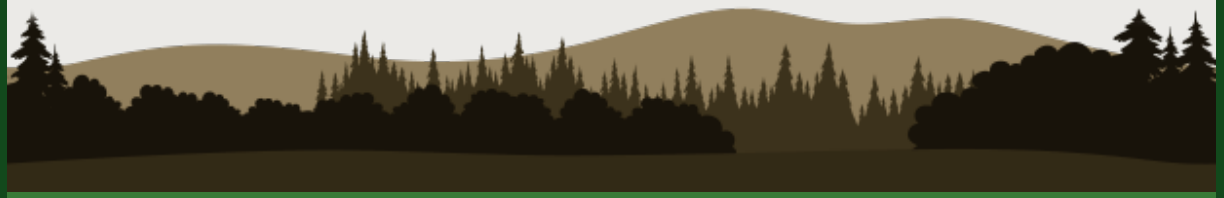
Georgia ForestWatch is the only nonprofit organization with a mission solely dedicated to ensuring the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests remain healthy and available for future generations, and we can only pursue our mission with the support of the community.

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.



Connect with us

Georgia Forestwatch | 81 Crown Mtn Place, Building C, Suite 200, Dahlonega, GA 30533

Unsubscribe mklouda@gafw.org

Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent bycommunications@gafw.orgpowered by

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!