



# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

## CAHABA GROUP GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA

AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, THE CAHABA GROUP, GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA, ALABAMA

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### Goodbye Kelley...Paul Perret

Our loss is W. Virginia's Gain! I hate to have to report this, but the Cahaba Group is losing one of our most valuable resources, conservation chair Kelley Hall. Kelley is moving to Morgantown, West Virginia with her husband Jeff.

To say that Kelley is dogged in her research would be a supreme understatement. She has often navigated through miles of red tape and multiple levels of phone menus or personnel to get to the source of what's needed. She dives into engineering reports and justification studies to find the pertinent information or expose the lack of it. Although her main focus has been air quality, Kelley has also logged many hours working on watershed issues. Just one example of her going the extra mile is her work with fellow Sierrans Bryan and Leslie Burgess and with Amy Sides of the Alabama Rivers Alliance to help catalog changes to the Cahaba watershed, as evidenced by both regular aerial photographs and thermal imaging.

In addition to her volunteer work for the Cahaba Group, Kelley puts her research skills to work as Program Coordinator for the Alabama Environmental Council. AEC board member Larry Crenshaw says that Kelley "takes a sane, diligent, and objective approach to gathering facts and drawing conclusions." Larry and I concur that Kelley's determination is matched only by her dedication to the environment. Larry re-

lates that she demonstrates her environmental commitment by walking *everywhere* and in all kinds of weather.

What a treasure West Virginia is getting in Kelley. Our loss truly is their enormous gain. I know that I speak for everyone who has ever worked with Kelley in saying that we will miss her greatly and that we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

**Issues to Stay Tuned To...**

Neither time nor space permits me to go into all of the issues facing Sierrans (and others) on both the national and local levels, so I will address just a few.

**Tri-state Water Wars** — We concur with the assessment of Alabama Rivers Alliance (who have been in negotiations on this issue for years) that Governor Riley's proposal would short-change Alabama and feed Atlanta's appetite for sprawl.

**Cahaba Threats -**

While the proposed "River Centre" development is an innovative plan with more stringent protective measures than any plan we have seen so far, we would much prefer that the property

### Monthly Program

General Interest Meeting  
Incineration of Chemical Weapons  
TUESDAY 8/19 6:30 PM ? CALL (205)  
795-2043

A large stockpile of chemical weapons are stored in Anniston, Alabama, and are slated to be incinerated, a technology the CWWG opposes.

CWWG Director, Craig Williams, will discuss the basis for this opposition and the availability of safer disposal methods being used at other sites.

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## Sierra Club Events Calendar, August 2003

See page 3 for Directions to Meeting Places regarding specific outings.

### Canoe Bear Creek

SAT 8/2 ? CALL 205-841-3627

Canoe trip on Section II of Bear Creek. This trip is rated moderate due to the 9-mile length. Water flow is dam controlled, so there should be plenty of water. Bring lunch and something to drink while on the water. For canoe rentals, call Bear Creek Run at 1-256-331-9184. Meet 8:00 am at the Hayden/Corner Park & Ride or 9:00 am at Jack's in Double Springs. Optional dinner afterwards. You must call leader, Havis Johnson, 841-3627 if you plan to participate.

### Pool Party/Covered Dish Dinner

SUN 8/9, 3-8PM ? CALL 205-982-1134

Bring a covered dish to share with your Sierra Club friends and guests and come to the Lakeview Club House pool at Paradise Lake in Hoover. A kitchen is available for your convenience as well as an outdoor gas grill. Bring your bathing suit and pool toys. There are two bathrooms at the pool and an outdoor shower for you to use (no wet swimsuits allowed inside the clubhouse). Dinner may be eaten inside or outside on the patio overlooking the lake. For your safety: NO GLASS containers are allowed outside the clubhouse. A one-dollar contribution per person is requested. Directions: From I-459 South: Exit at Exit # 10 (Hoover Met Exit). Left under the interstate onto Hwy 150 for 1.8 miles. Left at Paradise Parkway for one block. Second brick building on the right is the Lakeview Clubhouse. Host: Virginia Cain, 205-982-1134.

### Three Short Hikes to 3 of the Most Spectacular Places in Alabama

SUN. 8/17 ? CALL 256-287-1652

We will travel to Jackson County in North AL and hike short distances to two

spectacular sinks holes and to a bat cave where we will witness hundreds of thousands of endangered Indiana Gray Bats emerging from one of their major maternity caves. We will visit Neversink and Stephens Gap and travel a short distance to Scottsboro for dinner before we go to Blowing Wind Cave to view the bats at dusk. This is the most amazing natural phenomenon I have ever witnessed. Meet 11:30 am at the Golden Rule BBQ on Highway 79. For more info call: Joe Copeland: 256-287-1652

[joec@powernet.org](mailto:joec@powernet.org)



### ExCom Meeting

MON 8/11,  
6:30 PM ?

CALL 205-  
967-8254

Executive  
Committee  
meeting at  
the Sierra  
Club SE Of-  
fice at 6:30  
pm. All  
members  
welcome

and encouraged to attend and participate. Peggy Gargis, 205-967-8254.

### ICO Team Meeting

TUE 8/12 ? CALL 205-970-6500

If you are interested in helping plan and participate in Inner City Outings, a Sierra Club-sponsored program that leads outings for our area's inner city children, meet us at Alabama Outdoors in Homewood at 6:30 pm. We will be finalizing plans for the overnight trip during the weekend of 8/26-27 to the Gulf. Volunteers are welcome to attend our team meeting and learn how ICO helps the youth of our inner city connect to Alabama's great outdoors. No expertise required to be a volunteer with ICO! Contact Margo Rebar, ICO Chair, at 205-970-6500, or Lee Gardner, 205-835-8438, for information about volunteer requirements.

### General Interest Meeting

TUES. 8/19 ? CALL 205-795-2043

Chemical Weapons Working Group Director, Craig Williams, will discuss the basis for opposition to incineration of a large stockpile of chemical weapons in Anniston and the availability of safer disposal methods currently being used at other sites.

The Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG) is a coalition of over 120 grassroots organizations at chemical weapons stockpile sites in the U.S., the Pacific and Russia focused on ensuring worker, environmental and community safety during the effort to dispose of chemical weapons under the international Chemical Weapons Convention. Meet at 6:30 PM at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium. Free and open to the public. Paul Perret 205-795-2043.

### Newsletter Mailing Party

THU 8/28, 6:30 PM ? CALL 205-871-1981

Potluck supper at Dick Echols' home, 4032 Montevallo Road. Bring a dish and plan to make new friends and visit old ones. 6:30 pm. Dick Echols, 871-1981.

**Parking Note:** Please park on Glencoe Drive across Montevallo Road from Dick's house. Please **do not** park in Dick's driveway. This will avoid "driveway accidents."

### Canoe Terrapin Creek, Piedmont, AL

SAT. 8/30 ? CALL 205-795-2043

Terrapin Creek is a favorite 8-mile summer float stream with many spots to stop and swim. Mild class 1, or with heavy rain, a class 2 run. With its beautiful scenery, excellent fishing and abundant wildlife, Terrapin Creek is one of this area's best kept secrets. Bring your own canoe (\$5.00 shuttle fee required) or rent a boat from Terrapin Outdoor Center, 256-447-6666 for reservations. There are a lim-

*(Continued on page 3)*

## More Events, Directions, Notes...

*(Events—Continued from page 2)*

ited number of canoes available, so call early to be sure to let the outfitter know you are with the Cahaba Group. Canoe rental \$30.00. Kayak \$15.00. Paddles, life jackets and transportation included with rentals. Bring lunch, something to drink, extra change of clothes and old shoes to wear in the water. Meet at Office Max, Village East at 8:00 a.m. Please contact Paul Perret, 205-795-2043.

### NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

SUN 8/10 ? CALL 205-945-2043

Second Sunday Walk, Oak Mountain State Park. Meet 1:00 pm at Oak Mountain State Park Office parking lot. No dogs allowed. Les Miller, 205-945-8052.

### Message from the Chairman – New Recruits and Positions Still Open

In the last newsletter I made an appeal for volunteers to help with executive committee positions and others. I'm happy to report that we have had some response to that cry for help.

Peggy Goodwin and Jennifer Howard have offered their help with the conservation committee...much appreciated. More info on how the conservation committee is shaping up in the next issue!

Also thanks, to Del Kelso for volunteering as Newsletter Editor. Del has already mapped out a schedule. Now, we just need to provide him with some copy. Don't forget—you don't have to be on the ex-comm to submit articles (or photos) to the newsletter.

We still need help, I encourage you to get involved. Elections are coming up, and several ex-comm members will be rotating off. Please, please get in touch with me (795-2043) or with Peggy Gargis (967-8254) if you can volunteer some of your time and talent.

*(Continued from page 1)*

not be developed at all. The land is a very slender piece of steep terrain stretching from Blue Lake/Sicard Hollow on the south end – RIGHT ABOVE the water intakes – to within a narrow bend in the river in Liberty Park at the north end. Ideally, this property would be part of the Water Works holdings, but that is not the case, and the Water Board doesn't sound inclined to pay the steep price should the developer not exercise his option to buy (sometime this month, pending rezoning by the City of Vestavia).

**Anniston Chemical Weapons Incineration** — We have grave concerns about the incineration of chemical weapons stockpiled in Anniston and support the efforts of the Chemical Weapons Working Group.

### National Sierra Club Liability Waiver

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630.

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar, is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

### Miss a Newsletter?

Bookmark this link and catch it online at: <http://alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba.html>

### Directions to Meeting Places

**Alabama Outdoors, Homewood**—3054 Independence Drive on Hwy 31.

**Birmingham Zoo Auditorium**—2630 Cahaba Road, near Botanical Gardens.

**Days Inn, Hoover**—At the Intersection of Hwy 31 and Lorna Road, adjacent to I-65.

**Golden Rule BBQ, Hwy 79**—Right side of Alabama Hwy. 79 (as you're driving away from Birmingham). Past Tarrant City, just past traffic light at intersection of AL Hwy 79 and Sunhill Road. Before Carson Road intersection, near Jefferson State Community College.

**Hayden/Corner Park and Ride**—Hayden/Corner exit 284 off I-65 North. Turn right off exit ramp, then first right, then enter parking lot on right.

**Jack's, Double Springs**—On U.S. Hwy. 278 in Double Springs just east of stoplight at intersection of Hwys 278 and AL 33 and AL 195.

**McDonald's, Trussville**—I-59 North to exit # 141 (Chalkville Road exit). Turn right at end of exit ramp and see McDonald's on immediate left.

**McRaes, Roebuck**—9110 Parkway East, just off I-59 at 4th Avenue South exit.

**Oak Mountain State Park**—I-65 South from Birmingham to Hwy 119/Cahaba Valley Road exit. Right off exit ramp, then left at first traffic light. Follow road 2 miles, then left at stop sign. Go 2 miles past the fee gate, then right onto Terrace Drive. Go to park office parking lot between boat parking and beach parking.

**Office Max, Village East**—7523 Crestwood Blvd. Across Crestwood Blvd. from Sears, Century Plaza.

**Piccadilly, Palisades**—Piccadilly Cafeteria parking lot in the Palisades Shopping Center on Palisades Pkwy, just off Greensprings Hwy.

**Ruffner Mountain Nature Center**—I-20 to Oporto-Madrid exit. Head away from mall area. Go 1.5 miles, then turn right on Rugby Avenue. Go 1 mile, then turn right on 81st Street South Follow signs to the Center.

**Shoney's, Oxford**—I-20 East to Oxford exit 185. Left at end of ramp on AL 21. Go under interstate and see Shoney's on right.

**Sierra Club S.E. Office**—1330 21st Way South, near Five Points South, one block south of Highland Police Station. Turn onto 21st Way S. at Temple Beth-El. Go to end of block to last building on right.

### Outings Note

Anyone is welcome on outings, but if you make repeated trips, please join the Club. (See details in this newsletter.) Carpool whenever possible. Join us for optional dinner if you'd like. Check difficulty rating and children/age requirements. Questions? Contact trip leader.

### Note for Canoe Trips

All canoe outings are suitable for beginner/novice canoeists unless otherwise noted in the trip description. Life jackets are required and must be worn. You are responsible for finding your own canoe. Borrow one, paddle with a friend, or rent from Alabama Outdoors, 870-1919, or another outfitter. Bring your picnic lunch and something to drink while on the water. If you have further questions, please call the trip leader.

## At a Glance—Sierra Club Events, August, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Canoe Bear Creek
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Pool Party
10 2nd Sunday Walk	11 ExCom Meeting	12 ICO Team Meet- ing	13	14	15	16
17 Three Short Hikes	18	19 General Interest Meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Newsletter Mail- Out Party	29	30 Canoe Terrapin Creek

See event details and directions to meeting places inside.

Visit us online for newsletters, issues, contacts and more!!

<http://alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba.html>



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

SIERRA CLUB/CAHABA GROUP  
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and get a ball cap—all for \$25

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To join or renew your membership, send coupon with a check or money order for \$25 made out to the Sierra Club to John Walker, 2833 21st Street, Ensley, Birmingham, AL 35208-2217 or call John at 786-0622 for more info! (Dues include a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and chapter publications and are **not** tax deductible.)

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