



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

**CAHABA GROUP
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA**

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

Monthly Program

**General Interest Meeting
The State of Shades Creek**
Tuesday, June 17, 6:30 pm
Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

Michelle Blackwood, a resident of Homewood, is the president of the Friends of Shades Creek, an organization that is working to improve the water quality, aesthetics, awareness, and recreational opportunities of Shades Creek. Michelle will speak to us about the state of Shades Creek. Children welcome and encouraged to attend. Free and open to the public. Bring a friend, and we'll see you there!

**Cahaba Group Executive Committee
And Other Contacts**

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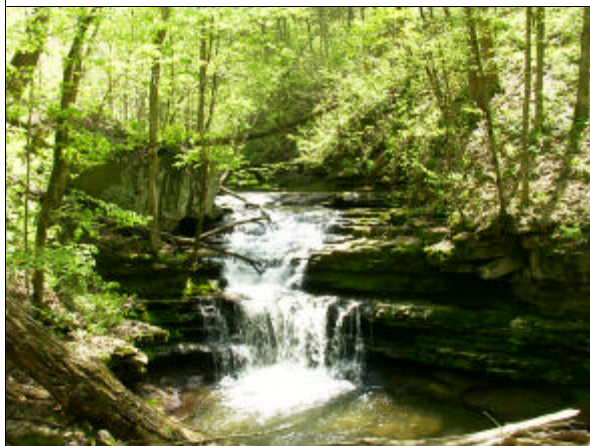
ICO Chair
Margo Rebar
205-970-6500

*Voting members

Happy Trails..., Paul Perret

Taking a well-deserved rest from the job of newsletter editor, David Freeman will be ending his term with this edition. In his tenure as editor, David has unfailingly woven together articles and various bits of information into a standardized format, updating the calendar of outings and other programs each month, as well as reporting on issues. In addition to his editing and formatting work, David has maintained the mailing label database for local courtesy copies of the newsletter, i.e., for interested parties who can receive two issues of the newsletter for free. The latter task actually should be separate from the newsletter editor's responsibilities, but David has graciously agreed to do both for almost 3 years.

Perhaps David's commitment to publicizing



**A Scene from our April 12
Wildflower Walk at Buck's Pocket**

the Sierra Club's activities stems from his passion for our outings and the great outdoors. Not only a day hiker but also an avid backpacker, David has been camping, he says, since the time his now 31-year-old daughter was just a toddler.

After joining the Cahaba Group in 1995, he became very active in the Group's outings and eventually in longer backpacking excursions. In 2001, David and a group of other die-hards spent 10 days trekking through the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho. In September of this year, the group plans to spend 7 to 10 days backpacking in Glacier National Park. Closer to home, the Sipsey Wilderness is high on David's list of favorites.

What has our intrepid editor/trekker

learned from the years of hauling his body and his provisions up and down mountain trails for days on end? To "lighten up," he laughs. David admits to once having carried a pack with more than one-third the weight

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Sierra Club Events Calendar, June 2003

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

Dayhike, Pinhoti Trail

National Trails Day

SAT 6/7 CALL (205) 221-6196

Joint 6-mile dayhike with the Alabama Trail Association on the Pinhoti Trail. Rated moderate. We will hike a portion of the trail between Pine Glen and Hwy 78.

Meet 8:00 am in front parking lot of McRae's in Roebuck. Optional dinner afterwards. Leader: Carroll Wilson, (205) 221-6196.

ExCom Meeting

MON 6/9 CALL 967-8254

Executive Committee meeting at the Sierra Club SE Office at 6:30 pm. All members welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Peggy Gargis, 967-8254.

ICO Team Meeting

TUE 6/10 CALL 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. No expertise required to be a volunteer with ICO! Contact Margo Rebar, ICO Chair, at 970-6500, or Lee Gardner, 835-8438, for information about volunteer requirements.

LAKESIDE STROLL, SWIM & POT LUCK IN NORTH JEFFERSON COUNTY

SAT 6/14 CALL (205) 266-4000

Easy 5.5-mile hike around an emerald green lake in North Jefferson County. Spend the day at a lakeside home. Enjoy the tranquil setting and meet new friends. After the hike join others in **swimming, boating, biking, floating, potluck dinner, and a late night boat ride**. You choose. Bring your

lunch for the hike, swimwear, float and towel (and rubber ducky), bike, a healthful dish to share in the potluck, and your drinks. Plan to stay late. Meet 9:30 am at Trussville's MacDonald's Restaurant, one block right (to the Southeast) from I-59, Exit 141. Leader: Jan Loomis (205) 266-4000.

ICO Outing

SAT 6/14 CALL 970-6500

Trip to the Little Cahaba River to look at macro-invertebrates and water quality as directed by Shane from the Cahaba River Society



Another View from Buck's Pocket
On our April 12 Wildflower Walk

General Interest Meeting

TUES 6/17 CALL 795-2043

Michelle Blackwood, a resident of Homewood, is the president of the Friends of Shades Creek, an organization that is working to improve the water quality, aesthetics, awareness, and recreational opportunities of Shades Creek. Michelle will speak to us about the state of Shades Creek. Meet 6:30 pm at the Birmingham Zoo Auditorium. Children welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a friend, and we'll see you there.

Free and open to the public. Paul Perret, 795-2043.

ICO Outing

SAT 6/21 CALL 970-6500

Repeat trip to the Little Cahaba River to look at macro-invertebrates and water quality as directed by Shane from the Cahaba River Society

Newsletter Mailing Party

THU 6/26 CALL 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."

Pinhoti Loop Backpack, Cheaha Wilderness

SAT 6/28- SUN 6/29 CALL (256) 461-3060

18-mile Loop on the Pinhoti trail, Skyway Trail, and Chinnabee Trail. Meet 7:00 am at Hampton Cove Publix, Hwy 431, Huntsville, or 9:30 am at Oxford Shoneys or 10:00 am at Turnipseed Hunter Camp, Mt. Cheaha. Strenuous due to elevation gain, rocky terrain and water

crossings. Self-sufficient backpacking gear required. Wilderness limit of 10 people. Leader: Lee Hollingsworth, (256) 461-3060, bakpakn@hotmail.com.

Day Outing to Horse Pens Forty

SUN 6/29 CALL (256) 538-3885

Explore Horse Pens Forty and Peggie Griffin's "mountain home". See the beautiful rock formations at historic Horse Pens Forty, and then drive 10 miles to Peggie's home. Go

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More Events, Directions, Notes...

(Events—Continued from page 2)

for a walk down Clear Creek and in the woods, then enjoy a hamburger cookout, featuring grass fed beef from the Garfrerick Farm in Alpine. Bring water and wear hiking boots. To go with the meal, bring your choice of chips and dip, a dessert, or beverage to share. Meet 1:00 pm at the Office Max, Village East, parking lot. Leader, Paul Perret. RSVP Peggie at (256) 538-3885.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. 7/12—Canoe Bear Creek, Paul Perret, 910-5863.

NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Sun. 6/8—Second Sunday Walk, Oak Mountain State Park. Meet 1:00 pm at Oak Mountain State Park Office parking lot. No dogs allowed. Les Miller, 945-8052.

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of his body during a week-long wilderness trip. He says that since then, he has whittled down the weight of his normal pack to about 27 pounds. And he's always looking for the latest in lightweight equipment. As you can imagine, he probably adds considerably to the bottom line of our local sponsors.

In his "indoor" life, David is an information technology manager for the U. S. Probation Office. His work in the IT field might be what gives him the ability to cope with last-minute copy changes and the shrewdness to give us false deadlines (now *that's* brilliant!).

From those of us who imagine that the news somehow magically appears on paper each month, we hope that David will take with him our sincere thanks for the work he has done. And we believe that he will have made the next editor's job much easier by establishing a schedule and a system for the submission of copy.

David is just taking a break from the publishing schedule. He will stay involved in other ways and continues to support our mission.

Farewell, David! Just keep us posted on your trips, OK?

Miss a Newsletter?

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

Our newsletters are usually on the Web before they get to the printer, and approximately one week before printed copies are received.

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.

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, June 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Pinhoti Trail Dayhike
8	9 ExCom Meeting	10 ICO Team Meeting	11	12	13	14 Lakeside Stroll/Swim/Pot Luck Dinner; ICO Outing
15	16	17 General Interest Meeting	18	19	20	21 ICO Outing
22	23	24	25	26 Newsletter Mail-out Party	27	28 Pinhoti Loop Backpack
29 Pinhoti Loop Backpack; Horse Pens 40 Outing	30					

See event details and directions to meeting places inside.

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

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



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BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

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Join the Sierra Club or renew
and get a ball cap—all for \$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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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