



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

Spiderman Comes to the Birmingham Zoo
Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 pm
Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

When outdoors, Alabamians are never more than ten feet away from a spider. Dr. Ron Jenkins, "The Spiderman" and professor at Samford University will present close-up photographs of spiders so you'll be able to identify and recognize the common spiders of Alabama. You'll know the venomous species to avoid and the beneficial spiders in your garden. Children welcome and encouraged to attend. Free and open to the public. Bring a friend, and we'll see you there!

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Act Now to Save Wild Utah, Paul Perret

The Sierra Club in January hosted a slide show about the magnificent redrock canyons of southern Utah. As you might guess, these days any wilderness owned by the national government that has the slightest potential for mining, oil and gas drilling, or off-road vehicle abuse is under assault by those who would benefit from exploiting our public lands for private gain.

They now have powerful allies in federal office. We have what we always have: the power of grassroots activism. In the past, we've saved a lot of special places under these circumstances. Let's do it again.

If you would like to help save the redrock

canyons of Utah, please consider taking a few minutes of your time to make a difference by writing a brief note to Rep. Artur Davis asking him to co-sponsor America's Redrock Wilderness Act. This will protect over 9 million acres of stunningly beautiful desert and canyon public lands by adding them to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

America's Redrock Wilderness Act achieved 164 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and 17 in the Senate for the 107th Congress. Let's get the people who represent us on board for the 108th Congress!

Please send your note to:

Rep. Artur Davis
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



Chinnabee Falls In the Talladega National Forest

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Sierra Club Events Calendar, May 2003

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

Canoe Cahaba River

SAT 5/3 CALL 841-3627

Have lots of fun in Irondale, Mountain Brook, and Vestavia Hills. Come on a moderate, 7.5-mile, paddle from Grant's Mill Road to River Run. Enjoy wilderness scenery within the metro area. Good opportunity to practice easy paddling. No classified rapids on this stretch. Ten (10) canoe limit. Bring lunch and water. Optional dinner afterwards. See "Note for Canoe Trips". Meet 10:00 am at Office Max, Village East. **Please call Havis Johnson 841-3627 if you plan to come.**

ICO Outing

SAT 5/10 CALL 970-6500

Outing to Bibb County to view the Cahaba lilies. Margo Rebar, 970-6500.

ExCom Meeting

MON 5/12 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 5/13 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.

Dayhike, Cahaba Lilies

SAT 5/17 CALL 824-6362

Easy dayhike to see the endangered Cahaba lilies in bloom, a once-a-year event.

These endangered lilies are a sight to behold! Six miles roundtrip along the Cahaba River. Bring picnic lunch and wading shoes. Meet 10:00 am at the Days Inn, Hoover. Carol Sumerel, 824-6362.

ICO Outing

SAT 5/17 CALL 970-6500

Outing to Bibb County to view the Cahaba lilies. Margo Rebar, 970-6500.



From Our Waterfalls Hike February, 2003

Spiderman Comes to the Birmingham Zoo Sierra Club General Interest Meeting

TUES 5/20 CALL 795-2043

If you search a stand of wildflowers or the loose-leaf litter of a summer forest, there will be more individual spiders than bee-

bles, true bugs, lepidoptera or any other taxonomic order of animals. Spiders are everywhere it is warm, where there is some water and an insect to eat. When outdoors, Alabamians are never more than ten feet away from a spider. Come to enjoy a presentation by Dr. Ron Jenkins, "The Spiderman" and professor at Samford University. Dr. Jenkins will present close-up photographs of spiders so you'll be able to identify and

recognize the common spiders of Alabama. You'll know the venomous species to avoid and be able to recognize the beneficial spiders in your garden. From this presentation you'll appreciate some of the many unusual lifestyles and habitats of some Alabama spiders, which should be protected. 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.

Weekend Service Trip, Coffeen Nature Preserve, Destin, Fl.

FRI-MON 5/23-5/26
CALL 836-4612

Group activities will include four-hour work project, breakfast, lunches, and special seafood dinner. All participants will share expenses for food supplies. Optional activities will include nature hike, musical, and sailing. (Own expense) Charge of \$7.50 for camping or \$10.00 for indoor lodging per person per night. Reservations to be made beginning April 28th. Space for trip limited. Please call Eddie Bibb, 836-4612.

From the Outings Chair...

Be a Leader!

The Cahaba Group of the Sierra Club and I want very much to strengthen our outings program. We need additional people to lead Sierra Club outings. We also want to go to places we have seldom or never visited in the recent past, and we would like to engage in new types of activities.

Would those of you who would like to lead an outing (even if you have not done so in the past) and people who wish to recommend new locations and different types of outings for us, please call me, Acyenith Alexander, at 822-2720 or email me at acyenith@mindspring.com. If I don't answer the telephone, please leave a message. I assure you that I will return your call. Please help us to inject new vitality into our outings program!

Moderate Dayhike, Cornelius Falls

SAT 5/24 CALL 1-256-287-1652

Moderate dayhike from Common Ground, a unique community in Blount County, to Cornelius Falls on the Locust Fork River. Hiking distance is four miles with about 1/2 of the hike off trail. Some "bush whacking" and "rock hopping"

(Continued on page 3)

More Events, Directions, Notes...

(Events—Continued from page 2)

required. There will be an opportunity to swim at the falls for those who would like. After the hike, we'll tour some of the dwellings at Common Ground. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Meet 8:30 am at the Golden Rule BBQ, Hwy 79. Joe Copeland, 256-287-1652. joec@powernet.org

Newsletter Mailing Party

THU 5/29 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."

Small Family Farms Day

SAT 5/31 CALL 1-256-538-3885

Celebrate Small Family Farms Day. Join us in Mobile for this very popular event! Visit the Bee Natural Farm and the Sylvanwald Farm. The Bee Natural Farm is a CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) farm and grows a variety of vegetables and fruits, as well as chickens for eggs. The Sylvanwald Farm is primarily a goat farm that produces milk and cheese, but also produce vegetables, honey, and eggs. On the trip, there will be a meal prepared with locally grown produce, as well as opportunities to purchase locally grown produce. Contact Peggie Griffin for more information, or to make reservations - peggie.griffin@sierraclub.org or 256-538-3885.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. 6/7—Dayhike, Pinhoti Trail, Carroll Wilson, 205-221-6196.

Sat. 6/14—Lake hike/swim, Jan Loomis, 266-4000.

Sat. 6/14—ICO Outing to the Little Cahaba River to look at macro-invertebrates and water quality as directed by Shane from the Cahaba River Society.

Sat. 6/21—ICO Outing to the Little Cahaba River. See ICO Outing on 6/14 above.

Sun. 6/29—Dayhike/cookout, Horse Pens 40, Peggie Griffin, 256-538-3885.

NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Sun. 5/11—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.

May 28-31—Forest Stewards Guild 2003 Annual Meeting & Conference. *Conservation Forestry: Sustaining Biodiversity in Working Forests*. May 28-31, 2003. University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. The confer-

ence includes three days of technical workshops, tours, and discussions, to which all interested individuals are warmly invited. Featuring a keynote address on "Whole Thinking for Conservationists" by conservationist and author Peter Forbes. For more information, please contact steve@foreststewardsguild.org, call 1-505-983-3887 x16, or visit our website at www.foreststewardsguild.org.

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>

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

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, May 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Canoe Cahaba River
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 ICO Outing
11	12 ExCom Meeting	13 ICO Team Meeting	14	15	16	17 Cahaba Lily Day-hike; ICO Outing
18	19	20 General Interest Meeting	21	22	23 Coffeen Service Trip	24 Coffeen Service Trip; Cornelius Falls Dayhike
25 Coffeen Service Trip	26 Coffeen Service Trip	27	28	29 Newsletter Mail-out Party	30	31 Small Family Farms Day

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/CAHABA GROUP
1330 21ST WAY SOUTH, STE 110
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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