



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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BURNING CHEMICAL WEAPONS IS DEAD WRONG...by Elizabeth Crowe

Hundreds of people gathered in Anniston, AL, protesting the U.S. Army's burning of lethal chemical weapons in the highly populated, highly contaminated area surrounding the Army Depot.

The Army began burning the weapons on September 3rd. Local residents say that the incinerator is a dangerous way of destroying weapons because of health risks.

After a 6-block march the crowd gathered at Anniston's Zinn Park for a rally where supporters from all over the region demanded that the government replace the incinerator furnaces with safer technology, like the neutralization technologies being utilized at four other U.S. sites. Civil rights icon Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Vice-President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), encouraged the community to fight the injustice of the incinerator. "We didn't break the back of segregation only to die of toxic chemicals...from a government who cares more about filling the pockets of contractors than about protecting this community from harm". Local "pink zone" residents--those living closest to the Anniston incinerator--testified that they feel twice betrayed by the Army's flat refusal to consider safer technologies and by government agencies that allowed



Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth

the burn to begin even though basic safety measures are not yet in place.

The coalition of many organizations will continue to educate the community and elected officials on the safer disposal methods.

For more information contact the Chemical Weapons

Public Involvement Cahaba Watershed...Paul Perret

The next public involvement meeting for the Upper Cahaba Watershed Study is tentatively scheduled for October 23, 2003, at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. At this meeting, the public's goals for the Cahaba River will be decided. What would your goal be? Restoration of the river to a pristine state? Maintaining the status quo? Allowing a certain level of change? Some random comments that I have heard from both Sierrans and others are that many a citizen would like to:

- 1.) Restore the Cahaba as our communities grow and have a river in which the public can safely swim and play.
- 2.) Have a clean, healthy, low-cost source of drinking water.
- 3.) Have a Cahaba that provides a healthy environment for the rich diversity of aquatic life that the river is home to.

You might have an idea that no one else has expressed. The only way to ensure that your wishes for the river and its watershed are counted is to show up and state your case.

This will be a goal-setting and strategy meeting.

Find out more at www.cahabastudy.com or by calling Tom Maxwell at the Regional Planning Commission, 205-251-8139.

Monthly Program

General Interest Meeting Appalachian Treasures at Crossroads

Tuesday, September 16, 6:30 pm
Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

A slideshow of images from Alabama to Virginia along the Appalachian highlands displays our heritage and this unique habitat of national significance. Followed by a short presentation on the economics of logging on public lands.

Presented by Katherine Smolski, Conservation Organizer of Sierra Club's Southern Appalachian Region (Highlands Ecoregion).

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Sierra Club Events Calendar, September 2003

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

ExCom Meeting

MON 9/8 * CALL 205-795-2043

Executive Committee meeting at the Sierra Club SE Office at 6:30 pm. All members welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Paul Perret 205-795-2043.

ICO Team Meeting

TUE 9/9 * CALL 970-6500

We will be planning our outings schedule for inner city youth groups for next year, discuss fund-raising, and lay the groundwork for a youth leadership program. Anyone interested in working with youngsters in outdoor settings or in supporting this program is welcome to join us at Alabama Outdoors at 6:30 pm. No expertise needed! Contact Margo Rebar at 205-970-6500 or mrebar@earthlink.net

Tubing/Swimming, Swan Bridge, Locust Fork

Sat 9/13 * Call 205-647-6961

Fun, relaxed 1/2 day outing on the Locust Fork River. Come join us and Friends of the Locust Fork for swimming, tubing and picnicking on a scenic river just 25 miles north of Birmingham at a historic covered bridge. Bring float, swim things, dry clothes, and picnic lunch. Meet 8:00 am at the Piccadilly Palisades or 9:00 am at the Hayden/Corner Park and Ride.

Note: Leader will meet group at Park and Ride. Please car pool from Palisades to Park and Ride. Vicky Wilson 205-647-6961.

General Interest Meeting

Tue 9/16 6:30 PM * Call 205-795-2043

A slideshow and presentation by the Sierra Club's Southern Appalachian Highlands Ecoregion. These photos and narrative, highlight this special area at risk and points to one prerequisite for protecting and restoring these natural areas; an end to commercial logging on our National Forests. Through images from Alabama to Virginia along the Appalachian highlands, the slideshow demonstrates the beauty and unique nature of what is a natural heritage and habitat of national significance. The slideshow is followed by a short presentation on the economics of logging

our public lands and a chance to take action on the national campaign to end commercial logging on federal public lands. Presented by Katherine Smolski, Southern Appalachian Regional Conservation Organizer, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium. Call 205-795-2043

ICO Training Leader Training

SAT 9/20 * CALL 205-970-6500

ICO's mission is to involve inner city

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, 205-871-1981.

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."

Dayhike Bankhead Natl. Forest

SAT 9/27 * CALL 256-287-1652

Hike in north east area of Bankhead National Forest and Warrior Mountain Trading Post day trip. We will begin our trip with a visit to the Warrior Mountain Trading Post for a view of the many Native American artifacts at the museum located there. We will also see the work of the resident silversmith, Bobby Gillespie. The Trading Post is owned by Lamar Marshall, the publisher of Wild Alabama Magazine and wilderness warrior who has fought and won many battles for the preservation of wild lands. We will then travel to a site in the north east area of the Bankhead for a 6 to 7 mile hike. Bring water and lunch. Rated moderate plus. Optional supper after hike. Meet at the Hayden/Corner Park and Ride at 8:00 am. For more info contact

Joe Copeland 256-287-1652.

Solar Home Tour

SAT 10/4 * CALL 205-429-4120

Sponsored nationally by the American Solar Energy Society, the tour showcases homes that are both energy efficient and employ solar technologies that are clean and renewable. The Alabama Solar Energy Co-op will sponsor a local tour in rural Blount county. The 3 hour walking tour starts at 9:00 am and will visit 5 sites, including straw-bale and underground homes. You will see passive solar designs that heat in the winter and cool in the summer. The active solar technologies that you will see are photovoltaic electricity and solar hot water.

After the tour, anyone wishing to learn more about solar design, energy-efficiency, or community living is invited to join us for an optional brown bag lunch. We will provide the porch and drinks. Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at Golden Rule BBQ Hwy 79 at 8:00 am (see page 3)



Peggy Griffin and Neil Milligan, Chair Alabama Chapter Sierra Club

youth in activities in outdoor settings and to increase their sense of stewardship of our natural resources. A day-long Session (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) for Certified Leaders program to train volunteers to be trip leaders for Inner City Outings.

Contact Margo Rebar 205-970-6500 or mrebar@earthlink.net for details.

MORGAN CREEK VINEYARDS ANNUAL GRAPE STOMP

SAT 9/20 * CALL 205-951-2592

Join the group for the Morgan Creek Vineyards Annual Grape Stomp. There will be antique cars, entertainment, winery tours & tasting. Meet 1:00 pm in Harpersville at the Winery, 181 Morgan Creek Lane. Vineyards phone 672-2053. Directions: 280 East for 26 miles, turn right on AL 25 for 1/2 mile, turn right on County Road 444, turn left onto Dead Hollow Road. Signs posted direct you from Hwy 280. Bill Baty 205-951-2592 or Acyenith Alexander 205-822-2720.

Newsletter Mailing Party

THU 9/25, 6:30 PM * CALL 205-871-

More Events, Directions, Notes...

(Continued from page 2)

formation contact Stephen & leave e-mail or postal address: 205-429-4120 or

greenworks@juno.com (be sure to say "home tour" in the subject line).

Upcoming Events

Alabama Chapter Annual Retreat
FRI 11/14 THRU SUN 11/16

Camp Beckwith, Weeks Bay.
Call John Ackerman 334-361-4732.

Cahaba Group Exec Committee Elections

Yes, it is time again for the Cahaba Group to choose leaders. ExComm members serve a two year period. In this election we have four positions to fill. Candidates are: Joe Copeland, Lisa Harris, Jen Howard, Beth Johns and Pat Rivera. Anyone interested in serving on the ExComm should contact Paul Perret 205-795-2043. Executive Committee Members whose term will continue to December 2004 are: Danny Dorroh, Margo Rebar and Paul Perret. Please be sure to thank this years candidates and those remaining on the ExComm for their commitment to the Cahaba Group.



Neil Milligan, Chair Alabama Chapt. Sierra Club

Forever Wild Tags will be available in all the county courthouses and annexes Sept. 1st. The proceeds from these tags will be used exclusively to purchase public lands for conservation. Remember, you can personalize your tag with up to 6 letters at no additional cost. If you would like to get your tag before your normal renewal date, you may do so by paying an additional \$1.25. For more info. call Joe Copeland at 256-287-1652 or

[Joec@power.net.org](mailto:Joec@power.net)

Non-Sierra Club Outings & Events

Early Morning Walk, Oak Mtn State Park
SUN 9/14 * CALL 205-945-8052

Meet 10:00 am at Oak Mountain State Park Office parking lot. Please, no dogs allowed. Les Miller 205-945-8052.

Ruffner Mountain Aids Hike
SAT 11/1 * CALL 205-322-4197 X 25

Registration will open at 8:00 a.m. and the hike will begin at 9:00 a.m. For more information regarding the hike, contact Nikole Layton, Birmingham AIDS Outreach 205-322-4197 ext. 25, or via email at nikole@birminghamaidsoutreach.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>

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, September, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 ExCom Meeting	9 ICO Team Meeting	10	11	12	13 Locust Fork Swim / Tube
14	15	16 General Interest Meeting	17	18	19	20 ICO Leadership Training Grape Stomp
21	22	23	24	25 Newsletter Mail-out Party	26	27 Day Hike
28	29	30	10/01	10/02	10/03	10/04 Solar Home Tour

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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BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT # 3487

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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