



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

CAHABA GROUP
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA



Holiday Pot Luck Gathering
TUE 12/21, 6:30 PM
BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM
BRING A COVERED DISH AND JOIN WITH SIERRA CLUB
FRIENDS FOR A SEASONAL GATHERING

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

Cahaba Group
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Committee And
Other Contacts

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205-795-2043
paulperret@e-es.cc

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Vacant

Secretary
Beth Johns

Conservation Chair
Jen Howard

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Joe Copeland
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ICO Chair
Margo Rebar
205-970-6500

Education Coordinator
Andy Freeland

*Voting members

Cahaba Group Needs YOU !

By Beth Johns, Secretary, Conservation Committee Member, and Sierra/Cahaba Group representative to Friends of Oak Mountain

"Feeling out of Sync with the rest of America? Always wanted to do more for the environment of Alabama? The time to Volunteer is Now!"

As with many other volunteer organizations, the Sierra Club's Cahaba Group is currently in transition and in need. **On the local level**, the Executive Committee, or Ex-Comm, has several members whose tenures are expiring. **Given the re-election of the President with the worst environmental record in recent history, we need to re-energize our activist efforts. Four more years of the same administration is going to necessitate more grass roots involvement from those who do not want to see hard fought gains eroded. We are counting on you and your love of the environment to rally with us!**

Your help will allow us to continue the work needed to provide opportunities for environmental recreation, education, and advocacy in our area of Alabama. The Sierra Club offers many great opportunities for volunteerism; these include but are not limited to helping with environmental education for children, assisting with nature outings, helping with the administrative structure of group, and working on local environmental and recreational issues, and with press releases for programs and issues.

What We Need/How You Can Help

Computer savvy/knowledge of databases would be *greatly appreciated* for some positions committees (e.g., Membership; Conservation, Media), as would skills, expertise, or keen interest in the following areas: photography, water monitoring, air quality issues, accounting/bookkeeping (treasurer), minutes-recording (secretary). **Of course, if you have a talent or expertise or a resource to contribute that we haven't asked for, PLEASE contact us!!**

Specifically, we are looking to our Cahaba Group members to shore up the volunteer base in the following areas:

- * Inner City Outings (ICO) support (phone Margo Rebar for more information: 970-6500 or mrebar@earthlink.net)
- * Conservation Committee members (phone Jen Howard, 323-8219; Beth Johns, 823-7911; Peggy Gargis, 967-8254; Lisa Harris, 979-1694)

(Continued on page 3)

Day Hike Cloudland Canyon

SAT 12/4 * CALL 256-287-1652

Cloudland Canyon is a Georgia State Park, located just northeast of the Alabama State Line near Trenton Georgia. It is one of our more scenic annual trips with steps leading to the canyon floor and two waterfalls, and a trail along the rim of the canyon for great views. The hike is a relatively easy 5 miles except for the steps to the waterfalls, which is optional. Optional dinner after hike. Meet at the Cracker Barrel in Trussville at 8:30 am. Trip Leader Joe Copeland 256-287-1652

ExCom Meeting

MON 12/6 * 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 12/7 * CALL 205-970-6500

The ICO team will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Alabama Outdoors. Anyone who is interested in working in natural areas with young people is welcome to attend. We are also **(always)** looking for people interested in helping raise funds for our program, even if they do not wish to go on outings. Please join us at our meeting or contact Margo Rebar at 205-970-6500 or e-mail

mrebar@earthlink.net

Day Hike Little River Canyon Upper 2

SAT 12/11 * CALL 205-854-7090

A strenuous off-trail 4 mile hike from the Upper 2 put in to Eberhart Point. Stream crossings may be necessary. Negotiation of deadfall, briars, and uneven ground necessary. Must be in excellent shape to attempt. A shuttle will be run to leave cars at entry and exit points. Meet at the Cracker Barrel in Trussville at 8 am. Trip leader Jim Temple 205-854-7090

Seasonal Gathering / Pot Luck

TUE 12/21, 6:30 PM @ BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM CALL 205-795-2043 Celebrate your favorite holiday with Sierra Club friends at one last gathering before year end. Bring a covered dish and join us! **Just what you needed, another party!**

Day Hike Wolf Creek / Little River Canyon

SUN 12/26 * CALL 205-221-6196

This hike is rated strenuous. Burn off that holiday fat on a three to four mile hike down Wolf Creek from the Rim Road to the floor of Little River Canyon and then upstream. Expect no trail, huge boulders and logs to climb over, under or around;

no wading should be required but balance and agility a must. Exceptional (A plus) scenery and wilderness experience. Meet 8:00 am at the Cracker Barrel Trussville Exit I-59 Contact Carroll Wilson 205-221-6196

Newsletter Mailing Party & Potluck

THU 12/30, 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, 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."

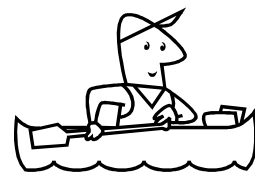
Day Hike Pisgah Gorge (Rock Hop)

SUN 1/2 * CALL 205-515-5243

Pisgah Gorge is described by many as the most scenic place in Alabama. It is also a very difficult place to hike. The Gorge is very deep and narrow and is formed by two creeks that originate on the top of Sand Mountain and drop to the Tennessee River over a short distance. The two large waterfalls at the start are very scenic, and foretell of the hike ahead. The ability to scramble over huge boulders is a must. Leader approval is required. Trip Leader, Audrey Alverson Cell 205-515-5243 Day 838-1100

Paddle and Overnight on the Blackwater River (2nd Annual) Fri 1/14 thru Mon 1/17 * Call 205-481-0004

The Blackwater River (located in the Florida Panhandle) is an ideal winter float. The river has a good current to help make paddling easy, but no rapids. (Class 1 or less) to reduce the



likelihood of capsize. Large sand bars at almost every turn make for excellent campsites and the cool weather and short daylight will make the campfire all that much better. Very good river access points offer a lot of flexibility to allow for late arrivals or early departure for "day trippers".

Participants provide their own boats, gear and camping equipment. (Rental canoes may be an option). Although you will need some warm layers, quick drying clothes (not cotton) and a warm sleeping bag, don't let concerns about cold weather keep you away from this trip. We will have the river pretty much to ourselves. Given the addi-

tional requirements of a cool weather, cold-water and being an overnight outing, this would not be a good trip for inexperienced paddlers or first time campers without an experienced partner. Although I have never seen an alligator on numerous trips to this river, pets should be kept under close control, their safety is your responsibility. For the good of all, participants must call trip leader to discuss their experience and equipment prior to joining this outing. Trip leaders Del Kelso 205-481-0004 and Mike Cowan.



delkelso@fastmail.fm
mjcowan@bellsouth.net

Note: This will be a joint outing with Birmingham Canoe Club.



West AL Group and Cahaba River Society Float
Saturday 11/13/2004

The 2005 Sierra Club Wilderness Wall Calendars and Engagement Books are now on sale.

Featuring spectacular photographs of beautiful North American landscapes, these calendars make perfect gifts for the nature lovers on your holiday gift list. Just \$10 each.

Order yours today by contacting Danny Dorroh at

205-413-4783 or
DD60@charter.net

(Continued from page 1)

- * Newsletter Committee members (phone Del Kelso, 481-0003 or delkelso@fastmail.fm)
- * Treasurer (contact Danny Dorroh, 413-4783 or DD60@charter.net OR Paul Perret, 795-2043 or theperretgroup@pesmail.com)
- * Secretary (contact Beth Johns, 823-7911 or beth-johns@mindspring.com)
- * Volunteer coordinator (phone Beth Johns, 823-7911 or bethjohns@mindspring.com)
- * Educational Committee members (contact Andy Freeland: 836-9002)
- * Outings committee members (contact Outings Chairman Joe Copeland at joec@powernet.org or Paul Perret, 795-2043 or theperretgroup@pesmail.com)
- * Media committee (contact Lisa Harris, 979-1694 or harris-lisa@charter.net)

State and National Sierra offer us a great framework; let's see if we can make use of it to keep our local house in order and to protect our area's natural resources. With enough volunteers, nobody's load should be too great. ***Now is not the time for modesty—Let us know what you can offer the Cahaba Group. We need you!***

What have we overlooked? **Volunteers of all sorts would be appreciated.** We need a "phone tree" to alert members about issues and ask for action, *pronto, from the membership!* And we need volunteers to help *coordinate* a phone tree. For whatever category we haven't asked for help, please contact any people **listed above** if you have an idea:

Goals for Executive Committee Members

- * Become acquainted with and promote the mission of the Sierra Club
- * Attend Executive Committee meetings and General meetings
- * Lead and provide educational training and/or conservation opportunities to the general membership
- * Promote the Outings Program
- * Participate in long-range planning
- * Help ensure financial stability and solvency
- * Monitor, question, and evaluate club activities
- * Provide Leadership and Vision within the chapter/group
- * Contribute a sense of camaraderie and teamwork

The next four years will continue to provide challenges to

Outings Notes

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.

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

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. **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.

Directions to Meeting Places

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

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.

Cracker Barrel, Trussville—I-59 North to exit # 141 (Chalkville Road exit). Turn right at end of exit ramp and look for Cracker Barrel Sign to left.

Cracker Barrel, Pelham—I-65 South, exit #248. (Cahaba Valley Rd) Turn right, Cracker Barrel on right.

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.

Kmart Parking Lot—corner of Crestwood Blvd and Montclair Road. From I-20 East exit 132B, cross Crestwood Blvd, see Kmart on right.

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.



At a Glance – Sierra Club Events – December 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/28	11/29	11/30	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/4 Day Hike Cloud-land Canyon
12/5	12/6 ExComm Mtg.	12/7 Inner City Out-ings Mtg.	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11 Day Hike Little River Canyon @ Upper 2
12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18
12/19	12/20	12/21 Seasonal Gather- ing @ B-Ham Zoo Auditorium	12/22	12/23	12/24	12/25 
12/26 Day Hike Little River Canyon @ Wolf Creek	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30 Newsletter Mailout	12/31 	1/1
1/2 Rock Hop Pisgah Gorge	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7	1/8



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FOUNDED 1892

SIERRA CLUB/
CAHABA GROUP
1330 21ST WAY
SOUTH, STE 110
BIRMINGHAM, AL
35205

Visit us online for newsletters, issues,
contacts and more!!
<http://alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba.html>

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Join the Sierra Club and get a ball cap all
all for \$25 – Renewals Also Welcome

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

To join or renew your membership, send coupon with a check for \$25 made out to the Sierra Club. Mail to John Walker, 2833 21st Street, Ensley, Birmingham, AL 35208-2217 or call John at 786-0622.

(Dues include a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and newsletter and are **not** tax deduct.)

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