

July 2005



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

CAHABA GROUP
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA



Announcing July General Interest Meeting



Kathy Stiles Freeland talks about future plans...bigger, better and greener than ever!!!

July 19th, 2005 @ 6:30 pm, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

Cahaba Group Executive Committee And Other Contacts

Acting Chair
Margo Rebar

Secretary
Vacant

Conservation Chair
Vacant

Programs
Lisa Harris

Treasurer
Danny Dorroh*
205-413-4783
DD60@charter.net

Membership
John Walker*
205-786-0622

Newsletter
Del Kelso
205-481-0004
delkelso@fastmail.fm

Outings Scheduling/
Publicity
Joe Copeland
256-287-1652 or
Joec@powernet.org

ICO Chair
Margo Rebar
205-970-6500

Education Coordinator
Andy Freeland

Webmaster
Joe Watts

*Voting members

You Are Cordially Invited to the

Art Show and Wine Tasting

Friday, July 8 from 5:30-8:30 pm



Enjoy an evening of Landscapes, Seascapes and other Nature scenes

by some of the South's finest artists.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine provided by Western Super Market.



Artists' Incorporated

3365 Morgan Drive, Vestavia Hills, Alabama

- in the red barn across from Western on Rocky Ridge.

Contact Bill Baly 205-956-2262 or just come!

We would love to see you more often

- You are also invited to walk into the landscape - join us at any of our outings/hikes as listed inside. You do not need to be a Sierra Club member to participate, so bring a friend!
- If being outside among flying insects and high humidity is not your concept of how to enjoy nature, then consider viewing nature while relaxing in air-conditioned comfort with Kathy Freeland's presentation about Ruffner Mountain Nature Center on July 19.
- Consider registering for our October Chapter Retreat at Sumatang in Gallant, Alabama, when being outdoors is more amenable.
- You are cordially requested to spend a few minutes (and a stamp) on our survey. We really do want to know what activities you would like - and how you would help. Hikes? Socials? Travelogues? Potlucks?
- Are you willing to devote one evening or one afternoon a month to help strengthen the Cahaba group? Please tell us.

Thanks for being a part of the Cahaba Group!

Want to Renew your membership with the Sierra Club? OR JOIN US? SEE LAST PAGE OR CALL 205-786-0622.

Note: The Public Meeting regarding the Cahaba River Watershed scheduled on June 30th at the Birmingham Botanical Garden has been cancelled.

**Sierra Club Alabama Chapter Annual Retreat
Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center, Gallant, Alabama
October, 28 – 30, 2005**

Join us and:

- Explore: hike, canoe/kayak, nature walk, bird watch, and more.
- Enjoy: inspiring and informative speakers, lodging and camping, folk dancing, a “Home Grown Meal”, great folks, and more.
- Protect: our natural environment with your active participation and support.

The site:

Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center is located at 3616 Sumatanga Rd., Gallant, AL 35972. (Sumatanga Camp is in northern St. Clair County.) Both ends of Sumatanga Rd. (County Rd. 44) intersect Gallant Rd. (County Rd. 35). The east end of Sumatanga Rd. is in Gallant, AL and the west end is about 3.4 miles from U.S. Hwy 231. Along Hwy. 231, the west end of Gallant Rd. is approximately 3.5 miles from I-59 and 11 miles from Oneonta. Along Sumatanga Rd., the Camp is about 1.7 from its western intersection with Gallant Rd. Driving from Gallant (on Sumatanga Rd.), the Camp is about 3 miles. The telephone number of the Camp is 256-538-9860. Additional information about the Camp may be found at www.sumatanga.org.

Lodging:

Room rates are \$44 for one night and \$76 for 2 nights per room (1 or 2 individuals). For 3rd & 4th persons add \$5 per person per night. These rates are higher if for only one night. Rooms for the handicapped are available. Camping rate of \$13 per night is for each tent.

Questions?

Dane C. Blumthal, Chair, Sierra Club West Alabama Group,
Telephone: (205) 333-9313 — E-mail: al.retreat.2005@gmail.com

..... *Clip, complete, and mail*

Sierra Club Alabama Chapter Annual Retreat — October 28-30, 2005 — Registration Form
Sumatanga Camp and Conference Center, Gallant, AL 35972

Send this form with payment, by July 15, to secure your place in October. Registration fee includes all meals Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Make checks payable to the Sierra Club Ala. Chapter. Mail to P.O. Box 76, Samantha, AL 35482-0076

Name: _____ Registration fee: \$50 per person _____

Address: _____ One night : \$44 per room (sgl. or dbl.) _____

City: _____ Two nights: \$76 per room (sgl. or dbl.) _____

State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ Additional persons (3rd & 4th in same room) _____
\$5 per night per person:

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____ Nights camping: ____ X \$13 per tent

Today's date: _____ Total : _____

Sierra Club Events Calendar, July 2005

Organic Blueberries, Almost the Same Way Bears Get Them (HINT: No Debit Card Involved!!!)

SAT 7/9 * 205-253-4985

You are invited to the Nicholson's farm in Tallapoosa County for a potluck picnic and blueberry picking. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and a bucket for the berries. Meet the trip leader, Del Kelso, at the Home Depot Parking Lot (Hwy 280 at Valleydale) at 3 pm. (We will pick after 5 pm to avoid the hottest part of the day). For details call Del Kelso 205-481-0004 or Kathy Nicholson at 205-253-4985.

Executive Committee Meeting

MON 7/11 * 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. Call 205-795-2043.

ICO Team Meeting

TUE 7/12 * 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

Canoe / Kayak the Scenic Hiwassee River

FRI, SAT, SUN — 7/15 thru 7/17 * Call 647-6961

Car Camp and canoe the scenic Hiwassee River in Southeast Tennessee. Participants must have some canoeing or kayaking experience. Participants must also provide their boat, camping gear and transportation. Leave Friday at 5:30 with leader or you may want drive up on your own. We will camp Friday, Saturday and return Sunday afternoon. We will paddle the Hiwassee River with class 1 and 2 whitewater on both Saturday and Sunday. Leader approval required. For more info call Vicky Wilson 647-6961

General Interest Meeting

TUE 7/19 @ 6:30 PM

BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM

Everyone's favorite urban nature preserve is getting bigger and better! Kathy Stiles Freeland, executive director of Ruffner Mountain, will present their just-completed master plan for expanding the nature center. BE the first on your block to see what will be a first-class nature education facility and tourism attraction for Birmingham.

www.ruffnermountain.org

Day Hike and Swim Chinnabee Silent Trail

SUN 7/24 * Call 681-6654

Hike one of our most popular and scenic trails near Cheaha Mountain. The trail winds through part of the Talladega National Forest and along Cheaha Creek. Enjoy a cooling dip at Devil's Den, a swimming hole and falls near the end of the trail. Bring lunch, water, some shoes and clothes for swimming if you wish to do so. Optional dinner after hike. Meet Kmart Parking Lot at the corner of Crestwood Blvd and Montclair Road (Eastwood Mall) at 9:00 a.m. For more info, contact Audrey Alverson at 681-6654.

Newsletter Mailout

THU 7/28 * CALL 205-795-2043

Meet at the Sierra Club SE Office at 6:30 pm. All members welcome and encouraged to attend and participate. Call 205-795-2043.

Tube Float on Locust Fork near Swann Bridge

SAT 7/30 * Call 205-647-6961

This will be a 1/2 day joint outing with Friends of the Locust

Fork. Meet Hayden Corner Park and Ride at 10:00 am. Must provide own float or tube, bring snack and drink. Call Vicky Wilson 647-6961 for more info.

Three Short Hikes To Three Of The Most Spectacular Places In Alabama

SAT 8/ 6 * Call 256-287-1652

We will travel to the Scottsboro area in Jackson County to two spectacular sink holes; Neversink and Stephens Gap, then proceed to Blowing Wind Cave to witness hundreds of thousands of Gray Bats emerge from the cave to feed at dusk. Neversink is a 172ft. deep, large diameter sinkhole that is owned by the South-eastern Cave Conservancy. Stephens Gap is a beautiful sinkhole with access to the bottom through a hole in one side. Stephens Gap is on private property, and access is by owner permission only. To enter the sinkhole and look up at the waterfalls pouring down from the top is a sight to behold. From Stephens Gap we will travel a short distance to Blowing Wind Cave, which is a maternity cave for the endangered Gray Bat, and is protected as a National Wildlife Preserve. This is a great outing for children with the ability to hike steep inclines for short distances. Meet at the Golden Rule BBQ on Highway 79 at 11:00 a.m. For more info call Joe Copeland at 256-287-1652

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 — July 2005

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 6/26 | 6/27 | 6/28 | 6/29 | 6/30 | 7/1 | 7/2 |
| 7/3 | 7/4 | 7/5 | 7/6 | 7/7 | 7/8 | 7/9 Blueberries, ripe for the picking |
| 7/10 | 7/11 Executive Com- mittee Mtg. | 7/12 Inner City Out- ings Mtg. | 7/13 | 7/14 | 7/15 | 7/16 |
| | | | | | Canoe or Kayak Hiwassee River | |
| 7/17 | 7/18 | 7/19 General Interest Mtg. — Topic is Ruffner Mtn. | 7/20 | 7/21 | 7/22 | 7/23 |
| 7/24 Day Hike & Swim Chinnabee Silent Trail | 7/25 | 7/26 | 7/27 | 7/28 Newsletter Mailout | 7/29 | 7/30 Tube Float on Locust Fork River |
| 7/31 | 8/1 | 8/2 | 8/3 | 8/4 | 8/5 | 8/6 Day Hike, 3 Spectacular Places in AL |



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BIRMINGHAM, AL
PERMIT # 3487

**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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The Cahaba Group is looking to expand its activities for members. We would like your input. Please fill in your preferences and return mail this survey. Thank you!!!

Membership Survey

This is your opportunity to select future activities or Projects in which you would like to participate. Please number in order of importance to you.

Hiking—Level of difficulty

- Easy
- Family Oriented
- Moderate
- Strenuous

Social Events (No Hiking)

- Wine tasting socials
- Lake Parties
- Pool Parties
- Covered Dish Dinners / Gatherings
- Other Ideas??? _____

Other Outdoor Activities

- Camping
- Canoe Trips
- Rafting or Tubing
- Beach Trips

Environmental maintenance / improvement projects

- River / Stream Cleanup
- Trail Maintenance
- Letter writing parties focusing on key environmental issues
- Other Ideas??? _____

Family Oriented Events???

Singles Oriented Events???

Topics for Meetings and / or Programs???

Suggested Events with other Environmental / Outdoor Groups???

Other Activities or Suggestions???

What Activities and / or Events would you be willing to lead or offer assistance in planning & execution???

- Hike Leader

- Social Events (Such as lake or pool party)
- Outdoor Activities (Such as Backpacking or Car Camping)
- Canoe, Raft or Tube Trips
- Environmental Maintenance Projects
- Family Oriented events
- Singles Oriented events
- New member recruitment efforts
- Advocate for a threatened area
- Prepare press release / Media Communication
- Write articles for newsletter or "Letter to Editor"
- Speak at Meeting...Travelogue
- Speak publicly about conservation issues
- Fund Raising
- Lead Outings to threatened or polluted areas
- Other _____

Your Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Mail as soon as possible to:

**Cahaba Group Member Survey
Care of John Latham
211 Raymond
Homewood AL 35209**

***** Fold Here *****

***** Fold Here *****

1st Class
Postage
Here — De-
sign of your
choice!!!

***Cahaba Group Member Survey
Care of John Latham
211 Raymond
Homewood AL 35209***