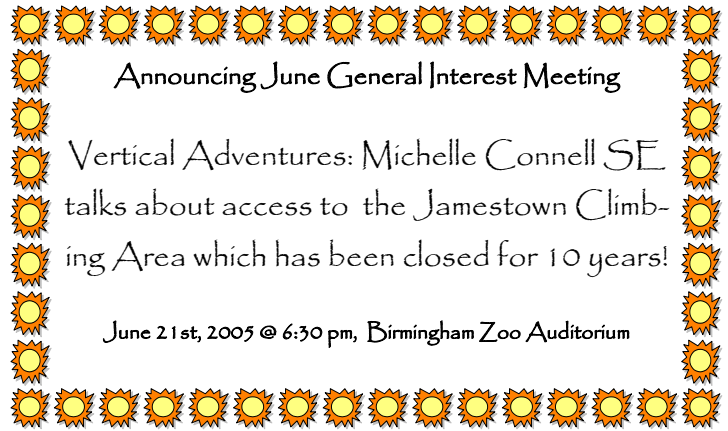




SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

CAHABA GROUP
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA



Announcing June General Interest Meeting

Vertical Adventures: Michelle Connell SE talks about access to the Jamestown Climbing Area which has been closed for 10 years!

June 21st, 2005 @ 6:30 pm, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium



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Webmaster
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**CAN WE HAVE IT ALL?
PROTECTING THE UPPER CAHABA RIVER...by Margo Rebar**

The Upper Cahaba River

Designated Outstanding Alabama Waters, threatened by sediment and nutrient pollution, home to more aquatic species than virtually any other river in the entire United States, recipient of over 30 million gallons a day of wastewater from treatment plants, source of drinking water for over half a million people, valuable natural and recreational resource, and under intense pressure for development.

The Upper Cahaba Watershed Study, initiated nearly five years ago, has been assessing the current and future status of this 550 square mile watershed. Even though the discovery of three new species was in the headlines in April, over 20 species of mollusks have been lost in the past few decades in these same reaches of the river. In the meantime, large numbers of new sprawling projects in the river basin - The Summit, Ross Bridge and Cyrus Lake subdivisions, Barber Park Motorsports, Patton Creek Shopping Mall, to mention a few - are replacing wooded hillsides with impervious surfaces (parking lots and roofs), contributing to flooding through increased stormwater runoff, adding pollutants to the water, and threatening the health of the river and its biodiversity.

What are our priorities? Can the vision of a preserved and restored river be achieved without impairing economic growth of the region? What can local jurisdictions do to help achieve a balance between unbridled development and conservation of this incredible natural resource? What contributions can we as concerned citizens make?

This is really important! Public Mtg.
June 30th, 5:30 PM
Birmingham Botanical Gardens

This **public meeting** will summarize measures that have been developed by the Study to help protect the resources of the Upper Cahaba River. If adopted by the municipalities throughout the watershed, these ordinances and monitoring plans should slow the degradation, maybe even improve, the Upper Cahaba River. Presentation at the meeting will include:

- **greenprint maps** that can be used by local governments to determine lands more suitable for development and lands more critical for the health of the river (that should not be developed)
- **model ordinance** for riparian buffers (setbacks along the river and streams to preserve banks, reduce erosion, filter pollutants, and provide habitat for aquatic life)
- **model ordinance** for conservation subdivisions (allowing clustering of buildings while requiring extensive undisturbed natural areas) cost/benefit analysis to guide decision making (what are the economic impacts of development compared to the more intangible value of conservation?)
- **plan for monitoring of water quality, water quantity** (a key to Birmingham Water Works being able to provide adequate supplies of water), and aquatic organisms revised floodplain ordinance as developed by Jefferson County
- **revised stormwater management controls** as developed by SWMA modeling program to show impact of impervious surfaces on water quantity.

Each of us contributes to the demise of water quality – discharging water from driveways and rooftops into storm drains contributes to flooding, driving produces potentially toxic residues that enter the water supply, demanding large quantities of clean water for personal use lowers water levels for aquatic critters, using electricity generates air pollution, adding fertilizers/pesticides to our lawns adds nutrients and pollutants to water sources, building houses with open lawns leaving only fragments of the forest changes aquatic ecosystems. And each of us can also contribute to improving the water quality and quantity by supporting changes in how we do things in the future. This is what this public meeting is about – how should we and our governing bodies do things differently in the future? How can we minimize our cumulative impacts so that the Cahaba River and its surrounding forests can continue to be a valuable economic and biological resource for the entire area?

MAKE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

ATTEND THE UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING ON THE UPPER CAHABA RIVER

PLEASE ATTEND THE PUBLIC MEETING
AN INFORMED CITIZENRY CAN HELP EFFECT CHANGE
BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS
5:30 p.m. THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 2005

For additional information, visit the website: www.cahabastudy.com

Sierra Club Events Calendar, June 2005

Covered Bridges of Blount County & Palisades Park Tour **Sun. 6/5 * Call 256-287-1652**

We will travel to Blount County for an auto tour of the 3 covered bridges that are still in use. They are the Swann Bridge near Cleveland, the Easley Bridge near Oneonta, and the Horton Mill Bridge, near Oneonta. We will have a picnic lunch at lovely Palisades Park, near the Horton Mill Bridge. Rated very easy. Meet at the Golden Rule BBQ on Highway 79 at 10:00 am. Trip Leader, Joe Copeland 256-287-1652

Executive Committee Meeting **MON 6/6 * 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. Call 205-795-2043.

ICO Team Meeting **TUE 6/7 * 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

Terrapin Creek Canoe Trip **Saturday 6/11 * Call 681-6654**

This section of Terrapin Creek is an easy, leisurely 8-mile canoe/kayak paddle. Terrapin Creek has a good flow all year due to the source of the creek beginning in the nearby mountains. We will travel to the Terrapin Creek Outdoor Center, just north of Piedmont, to begin our trip. The Outdoor Center is our take out, and Center owners and employees will shuttle us to the put in for \$5.00 per boat. Canoe and Kayak rentals are also available at the Center. Canoe rental is \$35.00 per boat and kayak rental is \$20.00 per boat. Rentals include life jacket, paddles, and the shuttle. If you wish to rent a boat from the Center, call 256-447-6666 any day except Monday. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Cracker Barrel in Trussville. Trip leader, Audrey Alverson 681-6654

Day Hike Ruffner Mtn **Sat 6/18 * Call 205-967-5883**

Close to home an easy 3 mile hike to an awesome overlook of the Magic City. Bring your lunch! Meet at Ruffner Mtn @ 9:30 AM. Call Andy Freeland 205-967-5883

Rural Bike Ride **Sun 6/19 * Call 205-647-6961**

This trip is suitable for beginners with a 20 and 40 mile option. We will ride from Brooksville to Guntersville and back. Pretty scenery, mostly flat with a few small hills. We will lunch at the Guntersville Lake. Store available or bring your own lunch. 40 milers will ride back to start, 20 milers can enjoy the lake until we return to sag them back to the vehicles. Optional dinner afterward. Meet Hayden Corner Park and Ride 8am. There will be no ride if raining. Call Vicky Wilson 647-6961.

General Interest Meeting **TUE 6/21 @ 6:30 PM** **BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM**

Vertical Adventures: Michelle Connell, representing Southeast Climbers Coalition, will talk about an exciting preservation project in northeastern Alabama. The Jamestown Climbing area has been closed for 10 years, and the group is raising money to purchase three acres with 1,600 linear feet of cliff. Learn about this amazing natural area and the art and craft of rock climbing.

Newsletter Mailout **THU 6/23 * 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.

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 (to be determined) at the Home Depot Parking Lot (Hwy 280 at Valleydale) at 3 pm. For details call Kathy Nicholson at 205-253-4985.

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 — June 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/29	5/30 	5/31 We won't ever forget!!!	6/1	6/2	6/3	6/4
6/5 Covered Bridges of Blount County	6/6 Executive Committee Mtg. *** Full Moon	6/7 Inner City Outings Mtg.	6/8	6/9	6/10	6/11 Canoe Terrapin Creek
6/12	6/13	6/14	6/15	6/16	6/17	6/18 Day Hike Ruffner Mtn.
6/19 Bike Ride Easy and Medium	6/20	6/21 General Interest Meeting	6/22	6/23	6/24	6/25
6/26 Freedom Rings!!!	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 Blue Berries pick 'em just like a grizzly!!!



SIERRA CLUB/
CAHABA GROUP
1330 21ST WAY
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35205

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

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all for \$25 — Renewals Also Welcome**

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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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