



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

CAHABA GROUP  
GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA

May General Interest Meeting

Republicans for Environmental Preservation

Speaker to be announced

May 17th, 2005 @ 6:30 pm, Birmingham Zoo Auditorium

Thank God there are still a few left!!! Lets support and applaud their efforts!!!

AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB, THE CAHABA GROUP,

**Cahaba Group Executive Committee And Other Contacts**

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**Bush/Delay Energy Policies Ignore Common-Sense Solutions**  
Statement of Carl Pope, Sierra Club Executive Director

In a speech in Washington today, President Bush is expected to trot out the same, outdated, last-century energy policies mirrored in the House Energy Bill likely to be voted on tomorrow. Why is it that everyone except Congress and the administration has figured out that there are better solutions out there that can create millions of jobs, protect our wild places, and make America safer and more secure? The week of Earth Day would be an excellent occasion for Congress and the President to let go of the past and take a look at the present, existing technologies that will solve our energy problems.

The President and leaders in Congress have said time after time that they want a balanced energy policy that lowers energy prices, creates jobs, and cuts America's oil dependence. Sadly, the energy bill before the House is not that plan. Even the Bush administration's own Department of Energy has said that last year's nearly identical energy bill would do nothing to lower gas prices or lower America's imports of foreign oil.

The message must be clear to President Bush and Congressional Leaders: America will not forget that when decisive action on energy was critical, they chose to enrich their friends rather than pursue the best interests of American families. Instead of seizing this opportunity to put American on a Clean Energy path, the House Leadership has turned away a slew of bipartisan amendments that would have allowed members to vote to put stronger energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions into the bill, addressed energy-based global warming, and reduced the billions in giveaways to some of the most profitable companies in the world. Instead, the House Rules Committee shielded its members from having to vote on key issues that would address energy supply and price issues on behalf of American families.

The Bush-DeLay plan is a vast wish-list for the Exxon-Mobiles of the world, masquerading as a genuine effort to address our national energy quagmire. It opens up our coasts and special places, like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to oil development; lets big business polluters off the hook for cleaning up the messes they make; and funnels billions of dollars in subsidies to outdated dirty industries like coal, oil and nuclear power. In the House tax title alone, there are \$7 spent on dirty, conventional energy sources for every dollar spent on clean energy. That is anything but balanced. At a time when energy companies are making record profits -- Exxon-Mobil, for example made a record \$134 billion in profits (up 218%) last year on high oil prices -- why is Congress funneling billions of taxpayer dollars to these same industries? The energy bill would also weaken our Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, and would even end MTBE (a gasoline additive found to pollute drinking water) manufacturers responsibility for cleanup contaminated water supplies, burdening local communities with a \$30 billion cleanup cost.

It's time to re-energize America with a smarter, safer, cleaner, and cheaper energy policy. We can light and heat our homes with safer, cleaner wind or solar power. We have the technology to make all cars go 40 miles per gallon within ten years, saving more oil than the U.S. currently imports from the Persian Gulf or could ever take from the National Wildlife Refuge, combined. We can improve the energy efficiency of our homes, businesses and appliances - putting money in our wallets and keeping the environment clean. We can protect our children from the air pollution that spews from cars and power plants. We can protect our coasts and the wildlands left to us for safekeeping. All we need now is leaders who will put people ahead of corporations and act now to create a legacy that we will be proud to leave our children.

## Environmental Action (for those of you in Homewood)

### Help Create "The Homewood Forest Preserve"

Friends of Shades Creek and The Homewood Environmental Commission are recommending that the Homewood City Council place a 100 year conservation easement on 65 acres of city owned forest land. ( A conservation easement provides a high degree of legal protection so the property stays available for passive recreation for a specified time period, ideally 100 years. )

This property on the north slope of Shades Mountain is prime forest land containing an abundance of natural treasures including many species of salamanders, migratory and resident birds, and native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers. There is also lots of space for passive recreation. Abundant hiking trails provide easy access to the property.

Your support will help to protect this critical habitat and recreational resource. Letters, emails, phone calls, and face to face appeals will make a difference. Also if you have friends or acquaintances who live in Homewood, please encourage them to support this effort and to communicate their support to Homewood City representatives. ( Contact info listed below.) Your call may stir someone to action. Please participate in this effort!!!

The council has been supportive of land preservation, a portion of this property is very loosely protected, but we need to take the next step to insure permanent protection. Let the council members know that you think this is a good idea.

#### **OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION IS A GOOD IDEA FOR HOMEWOOD**

It makes economic sense by increasing property values and contributing to the uniqueness of Homewood. ( google "economics of open space")  
It absorbs storm water and diminishes flood potential on Shades Creek.  
It provides passive park space to help Homewood meet national standards.  
It provides a community educational resource ideal for scouts, students and other citizens.  
It provides a sanctuary for wildlife in the middle of an urban environment.  
Add your reason

#### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Contact the council president and members from your ward.  
Tell your friends and neighbors to do the same.  
Forward this Email to people on your email list.  
Show your support by attending a council meeting. April 25, 2005 6 pm  
If you email to your representative please copy [homewoodforest@yahoo.com](mailto:homewoodforest@yahoo.com)  
For more information or to be added to an email list please send questions to: [homewoodforest@yahoo.com](mailto:homewoodforest@yahoo.com)

#### **Communications should be directed to:**

Ms. Ginger Busby,  
President, Homewood City Council  
City of Homewood  
1903 20th Avenue South  
Homewood, AL 35209  
or to [ginger.busby@homewoodal.org](mailto:ginger.busby@homewoodal.org).

***and also to your ward representative (See Back of Page)***

## Cahaba Group Local Focus

### Homewood Ward Representatives

<p>Ward 1 – Place 1 Anthony Smith 1528 Bellview Circle</p> <p>Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 871-7585 Email: <a href="mailto:tsmith@sirate.com">tsmith@sirate.com</a></p>	<p>Ward 1 – Place 2 Thomas Hamner, Jr. 2533 South 19th Street Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 879-1130 prefers letters</p>
<p>Ward 2 – Place 1 Allyn Krall 609 Oakmoor Drive Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 943-5300 email: <a href="mailto:ahmk@bellsouth.net">ahmk@bellsouth.net</a></p>	<p>Ward 2 – Place 2 Joe Falconer 156 Ridgemoor Drive Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 945-8341 email: <a href="mailto:joe.falconer@homewoodal.org">joe.falconer@homewoodal.org</a></p>
<p>Ward 3 – Place 1 J.J. Bischoff 231 Lucerne Blvd Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 879-9971</p>	<p>Ward 3 – Place 2 Scott McBrayer 321 Broadway Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 879-8233 Work : 879-3401 <a href="mailto:Scott.mcbrayer@homewoodal.org">Scott.mcbrayer@homewoodal.org</a></p>
<p>Ward 4 – Place 1 Sam Brasseale 457 Crest Drive Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 879-9454 Email: <a href="mailto:sam.brasseale@regions.com">sam.brasseale@regions.com</a></p>	<p>Ward 4 – Place 2 Laura Gaines 2930 A 19th Street South Homewood, AL 35209 Home: 835-8514 email: <a href="mailto:lgaines76@bellsouth.net">lgaines76@bellsouth.net</a></p>
<p>Ward 5 – Place 1 Jackie Langlow 106 Poinciana Drive Homewood, AL 35209 <a href="mailto:jackie.langlow@homewoodal.org">jackie.langlow@homewoodal.org</a> prefers letters</p>	<p>Ward 5 – Place 2 Allan Trippe 231 LaPrado Place Homewood, AL 35209 Work: 879-9220 Email: <a href="mailto:allantrippe@lawbham.com">allantrippe@lawbham.com</a></p>

### Learn to Canoe with the BCC!

Have an adventure! Make friends! Be outdoors! Get wet! The Birmingham Canoe Club is offering a beginning whitewater canoe class that will have you experiencing the thrill of whitewater in no time. You'll start learning basic paddling skills on a flat water lake and then make two river trips to Class II rivers, including a weekend camping trip to the best training river in the Southeast, the beautiful Hiwassee River in Tennessee. You'll learn strokes, basic river skills, water reading and safety. It's a wonderful introduction to the thrilling sport of whitewater canoeing and will build your confidence and ability for any paddling situation. Your highly qualified instructors are certified by the American Canoe Association, the governing organization for all paddle sports.

**All this for only \$85, and you'll get a free one-year membership in the BCC!** Boats and equipment available for rent for a modest fee.

Contact Bob Shepard for more information or to register for the class. Space is limited.

Phone 205-428-4061 or e-mail [bshep@uab.edu](mailto:bshep@uab.edu) Or for additional details go to:

**[www.birminghamcanoecub.org](http://www.birminghamcanoecub.org)**

**Walls Of Jericho Day Hike**

**SAT 5/7 \* CALL 256-287-1652**

This will be the Cahaba Group's 2nd visit to "the Walls" in about 20 years. Our 1<sup>st</sup> trip there was in January when there was ice on the trees, and it was just a great scene. We can expect to see lots of Spring Wildflowers on our hike. In the 70's, the "Walls" was a premier destination for hikers and nature lovers throughout Alabama and the adjacent states. This changed when a timber company bought a large tract of land that included the "Walls" and restricted access to the area. About a year ago Forever Wild bought 12,510 acres of land for public use in North Jackson County that includes the "Walls". This will be a 6+ mile moderate hike on a trail built by Forever Wild. There will be 2 creek crossings, so bring some shoes for wading shoes if you want dry feet. This is one of the more unique areas that we have visited. There will be an optional dinner after the hike. Meet at the Golden Rule BBQ on Highway 79 at 8:00 am. Trip leader, Joe Copeland 256-287-1652

**Exec Communications Meeting**

**MON 5/9 \* 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 5/10 \* 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](mailto:mrebar@earthlink.net)

**Pinhoti Day Hike**

**SAT 5/14 \* Call 205-556-3330**

This will be a moderate day hike of about 10 miles on the Pinhoti near its intersection with US Highway 431. Come and bring a friend for a day in the woods on this scenic section of the Pinhoti that many of us have not yet hiked. Meet at 8:00 am at Kmart parking lot at the corner of Crestwood Blvd and Montclair Road, or at Shoney's in Oxford at 9:30 am. Trip Leader, Sonja Mathis 205-556-3330 Email

[smathis2casa@aol.com](mailto:smathis2casa@aol.com)

**General Interest Meeting**

**TUE 5/17 @ 6:30 PM**

**BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM**

Republicans for Environmental Preservation.

**Trail Building Pinhoti South Extension**

**SAT 5/21 \* Call 205 221-6196**

This will be an opportunity to see and work on part of the 17-mile extension of the Pinhoti at its southern terminus on Horn and Bull's Mountains east of Sylacauga. No experience necessary; tools provided. Optional dinner afterwards. Call Carroll Wilson for more info at 205-221-6196

**Canoe Trip Bear Creek Near Haleyville**

**SAT 5/28 \* Call 205-221-6196**

This trip is suitable for beginners on a dam-controlled class I-II river. The distance will be about 8 miles. Canoes can be rented from two different liveries. Limit of 10 boats. Optional dinner afterwards. Call Carroll Wilson at 205-221-6196 for more info.

**Newsletter Mailout**

**MON 5/26 \* 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.

**Memorial Weekend Hike on the Locust Fork**

**SAT 5/8 \* Call 205-919-6231**

This is a joint outing of the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Locust Fork River (FLFR). It's a moderate-difficulty hike down the Locust Fork River to the Cornelius Mill Falls. Some folks like to go slow and talk wildflowers. Other folks scoot ahead to get in more play time at the falls. We'll eat our brown bag lunches on the sunny rocks at the falls. It's a great time of year to play in the falls, so bring wading shoes and swim wear if you like. Rendezvous at Pardue's Bar B Q in Cleveland on Highway 79 at 9:30 am. We'll leave the cars at Martha & Stephen's at 10 am and return about 2:30. For more information call the FLFR leader, Stephen at 205-919-6231



## Pollution Haze Clouds Disney's Hong Kong Hopes (Wednesday, April 20, *Financial Times*)

*The Disneyland theme park due to open in Hong Kong in September will "suffer from constant haze" because of worsening air pollution over Hong Kong and southern China, according to a report released yesterday by CLSA, the investment bank. "Worsening visibility is having an impact on public health and the economy," says the report, which also warns that property prices on Lantau island, where the Disneyland is being built, could be depressed by the flow of polluted air from China. "Data shows clearly that Hong Kong and south China have a serious visibility problem."*

## Cahaba Group's Website

Looking for information about the environment on the web?

Want to pass on a copy of the Cahaba Group newsletter to a friend?

At the office and can't remember when the next fun outing is?

Find it all on the Cahaba Group's website!!!

We make frequent updates as events impacting Alabama's environment unfold, post outings frequently, and post the newsletter online each month. Right now, we've got important information about a proposed study to transport chemical weapons--possibly to Alabama and information on how to thank Sen. Shelby for his support of local conservation efforts. To find out what's happening with the Sierra Club in the Birmingham area check out

[www.alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba/](http://www.alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba/)

## 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 — May 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5/1	5/2	5/3	5/4	5/5	5/6	5/7 Hike Walls of Jericho
5/8	5/9 Executive Comm Meeting	5/10 ICO Meeting	5/11	5/12	5/13	5/14 Hike Pinhoti Trail
5/15	5/16	5/17 General Interest Meeting	5/18	5/19	5/20	5/21 Trail Bldg. Pinhoti Trail
5/22	5/23	5/24	5/25	5/26 Newsletter Mailout	5/27	5/28 Canoe Bear Creek or Hike Locust Fork
5/29	5/30	5/31	6/1	6/2	6/3	6/4
6/5	6/6	6/7	6/8	6/9	6/10	6/11



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contacts and more!!  
<http://alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba.html>

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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.

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