



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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Very Interesting Mtg
TUE 11/16, 6:30 PM
BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM

STEPHEN GUESMAN OF GREENWORKS DESIGN/BUILD

PRESENTS HIS POPULAR CRASH COURSE ON THE
MOST COST EFFECTIVE ENERGY EFFICIENT UPGRADES YOU CAN MAKE
ON YOUR HOME.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS; THIS IS INFORMATION EVERYONE CAN USE!

2005 Sierra Club Calendars!!!

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 205-620-3299 or DD60@charter.net

Backpack Fiery Gizzard Tennessee

FRI, SAT, SUN 11/5, 6, 7 * CALL 205-854-7090

This is our first backpack to Fiery Gizzard in the South Cumberland Recreation Area near Monteagle, Tennessee. Friday will be a hike from the southern trailhead to the designated campsite about 5 miles up the trail. Saturday will be day hiking north along the rest of the trail. Saturday night, same campsite. Sunday hike back to southern trailhead. Meet at 9 am Friday at the Trussville Cracker Barrel exit 141 off I-59 For more info call trip leader Jim Temple . 205-854-7090

ExCom Meeting

MON 11/8 * 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 11/9 * CALL 205-970-6500

The ICO team will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Alabama Outdoors. Anyone who is interested in hiking 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

Geology Outing With Jim Lacefield

SAT 11/13 *CALL ???-647-6961

Come view some spectacular geologic formations with one of Alabama's premier geologists, Jim Lacefield author of Lost Worlds in Alabama Rocks. We will enjoy a brief slide presentation of some of the author's new work and then venture into the field for firsthand viewing of local geologic attractions around Blount County. This will be a driving and walking tour. Rated easy. Bring a sack lunch and water. Trip limited to 20 participants, ADVANCE REGISTRATION WITH TRIP LEADER REQUIRED. Meet at 9:30am at the Hayden Corner Park and Ride. Optional dinner after the outing. For more details call Vicky Wilson @ 647-6961

General Interesting Meeting

TUE 11/16, 6:30 PM @ BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM CALL 205-795-2043
Applied Environmentalism 101: the Energy Efficient Home. Natural gas and electricity rates are increasing this winter! **Stephen Guesman of GreenWorks Design/Build** presents his popular crash course on the most cost effective energy efficient upgrades you can make on your home. Stephen is a green building designer and trainer and a residential re-

modeler. His home is part of the annual Solar Homes Tour in Blount County. Invite your friends; this is information everyone can use!

Newsletter Mailing Party & Potluck

THU 11/18, 6:30 PM

CALL 205-871-1981

NOTE: THIS IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL, DUE TO THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY!!!

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."

Covered Bridges of Blount County and Palisades Park Tour

SUN 11/21 * 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

Oak Mountain St. Pk. Day Hike Blue & White Trails

Sat 11/20 * Call 205-792-3847

On this day, we will hike up the mountain on the Blue Trail (South Rim) to the Orange Connector to the White Trail (Shackleford Point) and back down the mountain again. Distance is 7 - 8 miles and this has significant elevation change up the mountain and back down again. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the 9:00 a.m. at the North Trail head. For more info call Tammy Cooper at 205-792-3847 (cell) or home at 205-345-3460 or email at

tcmkbeauty@juno.com

Cloudland Canyon Day Hike

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

Paddle and Overnight on the Blackwater River (2nd Annual) Fri 1/14 thru Sun 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 capsizing. 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 additional requirements of a cool weather, coldwater 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. Smokers: We respect your life style choice, but please plan on "packing out" cigarette butts. 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

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

Love that monthly issue of "Backpacker", but wish some of the write-ups were a little closer to home???

Press Release—Introducing Southern Hiker Magazine

A new publication designed specifically for walkers, hikers, and backpackers in the Southeast, "Southern Hiker", is preparing to hit the newsstands. "Southern Hiker" will focus strictly on walking, hiking, and backpacking the Southeast. The first few issues will cover Alabama, Florida, and Georgia. By summer 2005 the magazine plans to expand to Tennessee, the Carolinas, and Mississippi.

The full-color, bi-monthly publication will be geared strictly toward the Southern hiker with feature trail destinations that include not only trail maps and descriptions but also the area's history, events and attractions, even recommendations for the best accommodations and restaurants so that anyone hiking the area can experience what makes the region special.

But Southern Hiker will go much farther than being just a trail guide. It will be packed with product and gear reviews, event and activity calendars, interviews and profiles, articles and features on environmental issues that are facing the South, and much more.

Southern Hiker is being developed by Joe Cuhaj. Joe is the author of articles and several books on hiking and canoeing in the south including "Hike Alabama" and "Paddling Alabama" for Globe-Pequot / Falcon Books.

The first issue is scheduled for publication December 2004. The Southern Hiker website, **www.SouthernHiker.Com**, will begin operation shortly so visitors can learn more about the publication, link to organizations and clubs around the region, get the latest trail reports and updates on environmental issues, subscribe, advertise, and submit articles and photos for upcoming issues.

2-year subscriptions are being taken beginning October 15th, 2004 by visiting the Southern Hiker website. A 2-year subscription includes 12 issues (published by monthly) for only \$24.95.

For more information on the magazine, advertising, subscriptions, or submitting material, please contact Joe Cuhaj at (251) 533-1812 or via email at

southernhiker@bellsouth.net.



For those who plan a year in advance, September 8–11, 2005 is when the Sierra Club will hold its first-ever national environmental convention and exposition in San Francisco. Sierra Summit 2005 will bring together thousands of Club members and supporters and will feature three days of personal inspiration, networking, top-flight keynote speakers, workshops packed with visionary ideas and practical how-to's, star-studded entertainment, and an exhibition hall of cutting-edge products and solutions for living well and caring well for our environment. The summit steering committee is seeking ideas and volunteers.

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.

Volunteer Needed: 1 Hour per Month



When new members join, there is a lag of several months before they get on the mailing address database. Also, non-members who attend outings are provided a complimentary copy of the newsletter for the next two newsletters to encourage future participation and hopefully membership.

Currently, these addresses are keyed into a database that allows for generation of mailing labels, but handwriting would work just as well. On a monthly basis, the volunteer would either create and forward address labels to the newsletter mailing party or write in addresses and mail after the fact. (The cost of postage is reimbursable by the club).

Want to "help out" but don't have much time? This volunteer opportunity might be perfect for you. Please contact Del Kelso 205-481-0004 or e-mail

delkelso@fastmail.fm

At a Glance – Sierra Club Events – November 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	11/4	11/5	11/6
					Backpack Fiery Gizzard (Fri, Sat, Sun)	
11/7	11/8 ExComm Mtg.	11/9 Inner City Out-ings Mtg.	11/10	11/11 	11/12	11/13 Geology Outing (Rock ON!)
11/14	11/15	11/16 General Interest Meeting	11/17	11/18 Newsletter Mail-out	11/19	11/20 Day Hike Oak Mtn St. Pk.
11/21 Covered Bridges & Palisades Park	11/22	11/23	11/24	11/25 	11/26	11/27
11/28	11/29	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> Newsletter mailout one week earlier than normal due to Thanksgiving Holiday! </div>		12/2	12/3	12/4 Day Hike Cloud-land Canyon
12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11



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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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