



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

CAHABA GROUP GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA

THEY'RE HERE!!!

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

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

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Alabama State Chapter Retreat

FRI, SAT, SUN 10/29, 30, 31

The Alabama State Chapter of the Sierra Club annual retreat is being hosted by the Cahaba Group in 2004. Mark your calendar now for the weekend of Friday 10/29 through Sunday 10/31. The location selected for this years retreat is Camp McDowell & Conference Center.

It is time to register!

Alabama Chapter of Sierra Club State Retreat

October 29th, 30th and 31st. Reserve your

preferred accommodations now. Registration

form available at:

alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba/.html

Or call 205.481.0004

Camp McDowell is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. It is located north-west of Birmingham, fifteen miles from Jasper on Highway 195, and covers approximately 700 acres of canyons, forest, and waterfalls. Since 1948, people of all faiths and backgrounds have used Camp McDowell facilities to rest, learn, grow, worship, and play. You can "check it out" on the web at:

www.campmcdowell.com

The camp provides the perfect setting for our retreat with conference facilities, lodging and meals in a natural and relaxed environment. Options for lodging are from "motel style" to "dormitory". Delicious meals are served either "family" or "buffet" style.

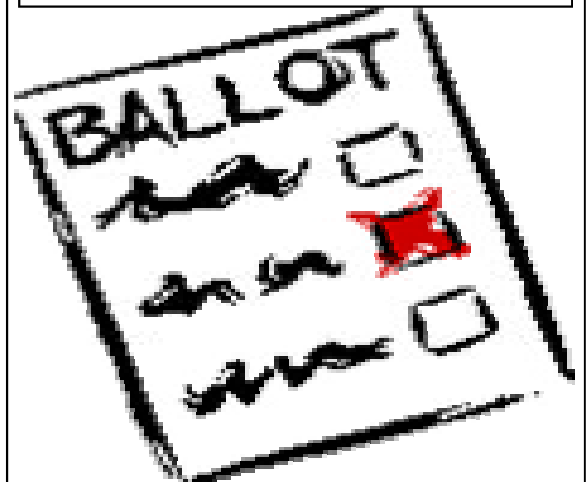
Plan to arrive Friday evening for our social gathering. After breakfast on Saturday, we will be treated to presentations and discussions on a variety of topics. There will be a banquet Saturday night, (hint: seasonally themed!) and a whole lot more. After presentation of awards and door prizes, we will depart at noon Sunday to allow all of the little ghosts and goblins to get home in plenty of time to "trick or treat" in their own neighborhoods.

While our agenda is not "final" yet, you can count on...

- * 1st class speakers presenting a variety of environmental topics and issues.
- * Outings and activities that will allow us to enjoy the natural environment.

The opportunity to visit with friends we have known for years and those we have just met.

The choice has seldom been as clear as in the upcoming election. Vote for the environment!



SOLAR HOME TOUR

SAT 10/2 * CALL 205-429-4120

Sponsored Nationally by the American Solar Energy Society, the tour showcases homes that are both energy efficient and employ solar technologies that are clean and renewable.

The Alabama Solar Power Co-op will sponsor a local tour in rural Blount county, an hour outside of Birmingham and Huntsville. The 3 hour walking tour starts at 9:00 am and will visit 5 sites, including strawbale and underground homes. You will see passive solar building designs that heat in the winter and cool in the summer. Solar technologies that you will see are photovoltaic systems for generating electricity and solar thermal for hot water.

After the tour, anyone wishing to learn more about solar design, energy-efficiency, or community living is invited to join us for a brown bag lunch. We will provide the porch and drinks.

Wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Optional brown bag lunch. For directions contact Stephen & leave e-mail or postal address: 205-429-4120

greenworks@juno.com

(be sure to say "home tour" in the subject line).

For additional tour sites check out **www.ases.org** (Am. Solar Energy Society).

Canoe the Coosa River Near Wetumpka

SAT 10/9 * CALL 205-680-9263

The flow of this 6.8-mile section of the Coosa is dam controlled, with releases of additional water on weekends through October to accommodate recreational boaters. The trip is a combination of flat and white water with several class 2 and one class 2+ rapids. Although we will encounter rapids, the trip is rated as safe for beginners. This is not a trip for small children unless they are in a boat with an experienced paddler. Boats can be rented from the Coosa Outdoor Center at the following rates:

Sit on top solo kayaks (Hula/Aloha, Pegasus, Torrent, or Ripper), \$20.00. I recommend the Torrent for beginners. Tandem Kayaks (Festiva, Lanakai) and Canoes \$30.00

If you rent a boat, there is no shuttle fee and life vest are provided. If you bring your own boat, there will be a \$5.00 shuttle fee. You can contact the Coosa Outdoor Center to arrange boat rentals at 334-201-5510 or 334-202-3050 or 334-201-1059

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Cracker Barrel Parking Lot just off exit 248 on I-65 south of Birmingham. This is the Cahaba Valley Road exit. Exit right then turn right. See Cracker Barrel on right. Trip Leader Audrey Alverson 205-680-9263

ExCom Meeting

MON 10/11 * 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. Paul Perret 205-795-2043.

ICO Team Meeting

TUE 10/12 * 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**

Day Hike, Odom Scout Trail

SAT 10/16 * CALL 205-647-6961

This will be a strenuous, sometimes rocky, ten-mile hike that includes some uphill stretches as we climb over the Cheaha ridge. Also features some the state's most spectacular vistas. This is a great hike that will be a good opportunity to stretch your legs and get some exercise. Optional dinner after hike. Meet at Kmart parking at the corner of Crestwood Blvd. and Montclair Rd. Just off exit 132B on I-20 East Trip Leader Vicky Wilson 205-647-6961

General Interesting Meeting

TUE 10/19, 6:30 PM @ BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM CALL 205-795-2043

Day Hike Cheaha

SAT 10/23 * CALL 256-461-3060

Mt Cheaha Fall Color Dayhike. 8 miles total, from Cheaha trailhead (parking lot) along the ridgeline on the Pinhoti trail to Caney Head. Beautiful panoramic views of the mountains and valleys in their autumn splendor. Then descend on the Chinnabee trail to Turnipseed campsite where we will have left shuttle vehicles. Bring water, lunch, sturdy boots or strong ankles. Rated moderate, trail is very rocky. Watch the sunset as we eat dinner (optional) at the state park restaurant. Meet at 8:30am at the Kmart Parking Lot at the corner of Crestwood Blvd. And Montclair Rd. Just off exit 132B on I-20 or at the Shoneys in Oxford at 10:00 am Trip Leader Lee Hollingsworth, 256-461-3060 day, 256-520-6659 eve.

ICO Picnic @ Rickwood State Park

SAT 10/23 * CALL 205-970-6500

Do you want to know a little more about ICO (Inner City Outings program)? Then join us on October 23, from 11:00 p.m. onward, at Rickwood State Park. ICO will be hosting a picnic for all ICO participants, parents, volunteers, and anyone else interested in experiencing ICO. Nature trail, cavern, playground, and other activities for children will be available. ICO will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, iced tea, and lemonade. People attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Directions: Travel north on I-65 to exit 284, to Alabama 160, and follow signs to park. Call Margo Rebar at 205-970-6500.

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

(Continued on page 3)

Think about it...

Question: Trees need sunlight and water to grow and be healthy, what does it take to keep the Cahaba Group active and going strong on environmental issues?

Answer: Volunteers! A few volunteers can make the difference between a group that can effectively communicate and actively respond to local environmental challenges and a group that is silenced by apathy. A few outings leaders make the difference between a club that explores and plays in the outdoors together and a club that isn't much more than a monthly newsletter.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP,
VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

(Continued from page 2)

Covered Bridges of Blount County and Palisades Park Tour
SUN 11/14 * CALL 256-287-1652

We will travel to Blount County for an auto tour of the 3 covered bridges that are still used for travel there. 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. Trip Leader, Joe Copeland 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.



Note: Some of the meeting locations have changed as indicated with this symbol.

At a Glance – Sierra Club Events – October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10/3 Sat 10/2 Solar Home Tour	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/7	10/8	10/9 Paddle Coosa River
10/10	10/11 ExComm Mtg.	10/12 Inner City Outings Mtg.	10/13	10/14	10/15	10/16 Day Hike Odom Scout Trail
10/17	10/18	10/19 General Interest Meeting	10/20	10/21	10/22	10/23 Day Hike Cheaha Or ICO Picnic @ Rickwood State Park
10/24	10/25	10/26	10/27	10/28 Newsletter Mail-out Party	10/29	10/30 Alabama Chapter Sierra Club State Retreat Weekend
10/31	11/1	11/2	11/3	11/4	11/5	11/6 Backpack Fiery Gizzard (Fri, Sat, Sun)



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SIERRA CLUB/
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1330 21ST WAY
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Visit us online for newsletters, issues,
contacts and more!!
<http://alabama.sierraclub.org/cahaba.html>

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