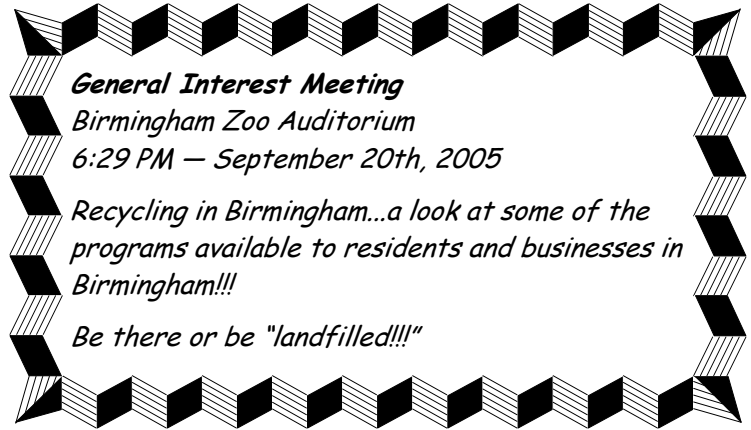




# SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

## CAHABA GROUP GREATER BIRMINGHAM AREA



### **General Interest Meeting**

*Birmingham Zoo Auditorium*

*6:29 PM – September 20th, 2005*

*Recycling in Birmingham...a look at some of the programs available to residents and businesses in Birmingham!!!*

*Be there or be "landfilled!!!!"*

### **Cahaba Group Executive Committee And Other Contacts**

**Acting Chair \***  
Margo Rebar  
205-970-6500

**Acting Co-Chair**  
John Valin \*  
205-982-0209

**Conservation Chair**  
John Latham \*  
205-870-8974

**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

### **Letter to the Editor, Birmingham News (An abridged version appeared in the Birmingham News).**

Jefferson County has a major flooding problem. Our rivers and creeks overflow more and more often, washing away their banks and flooding our roadways, communities, and even homes and businesses. An ordinance to help solve causes of flooding was drawn up by the county floodplain coordinator a year and a half ago and went through due public process until politics reared its ugly head.

Revisions were made as a result of public hearings, many as a result of concessions to developers, but they were not satisfied. This was important enough to them to form a group and hire a lawyer and public relations firm to fight ordinances that would limit filling and building in the floodplains and too close to rivers. They call themselves Business Alliance for Responsible Development. Yet, irresponsible development is the major cause of flooding

Due to their pressure, Commissioner Mary Buckelew set up a "review committee". It was made up largely of mayors, other city officials, developers, and others who stand to gain from de-

velopment. Though the ordinance was drastically weakened by this process, developers were still not satisfied. On May 24, commissioners delayed a vote on the ordinance for 30 days.

Unbelievably, Commissioner Buckelew has been meeting privately with the developers' lawyer. He was allowed to write and submit a draft floodplain ordinance to be considered for replacing the original ordinance.

Who would have thought Alabama Power, Alabama Gas and Wachovia Bank, even though they also stand to gain, would be allies of developers who are more interested in their own personal gain than in helping to solve severe flooding problems? Worse yet, who would have thought a county com-

### ***The Last Newsletter...Del Kelso***

*Well, as I mentioned last month, this is the last Cahaba Group Newsletter. In late September, you should receive the 1st edition of the Alabama Chapter's Statewide Newsletter and you will have a new Newsletter Editor!*

*I never was a really clever guy to think up just the right thing to say, so I guess I'll just leave it at...*

***Happy Trails to You!!!***

missioner, would take an ordinance, which, by law, must be handled publicly, out of the public process and hold private, one-sided meetings?

By the way, what are the other commissioners doing about this?

**Mrs. Pat Feemster, Trussville**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reprinted from Birmingham News --  
Wednesday, July 27, 2005**

Remember Jefferson County Commissioner Mary Buckelew if your house or business is under water someday because of continued development in flood-prone areas.

Buckelew is putting the finishing touches on a flood-plain ordinance - using only input she gets from developers and business interests that don't want too many restrictions on their projects. Forget the original ordinance, which had been crafted by many voices, including environmentalists wanting more restrictions on building in the flood plain. Buckelew says she doesn't need to hear from those river lovers and tree huggers.

***"We heard from the Cahaba River Society," Buckelew says. "I understood them perfectly clearly."***

County residents need to hear Buckelew perfectly clearly, too. What she's saying is that she needs to listen to only one side - the side that stands to benefit from weaker regulations - to craft a policy that is supposed to serve the greater interests of our community. Remember that if the floodwaters start rising and heading your way.

Buckelew's wrongheaded views are the same sort that gave us the county's sewer disaster. In that classic boondoggle, commissioners used court-ordered sewer improvements as an excuse to expand the system and pave the way for new development in the Cahaba River basin. It was a great deal for developers, but

a lousy deal for the rest of us. Thanks to the county commissioners' unholy alliance with developers, we'll be soaked by exorbitant sewer bills for years to come.

If Buckelew has her way, the rest of us stand to pay a high price for a weak flood-plain ordinance, too.

The issue here isn't rocket science. If you divert floodwaters from where they are naturally collected or absorbed, the water doesn't just disappear. It flows somewhere else.

In the original proposal, anyone wanting to develop flood-prone property would have to dig a pond equal to the size of the development to collect floodwater in the future. The Business Alliance for Responsible Development says that's too restrictive. The county is working to oblige the group's concerns.

That's good for developers, maybe. But what about the rest of us?

**Far be it from Mary Buckelew to worry about that!**

**OUTINGS LEADERSHIP NEWS...**

By now you may be aware that Joe Copeland will be "handing the baton" for outings over to a committee of outings leaders during his run for Governor of the State of Alabama. (And he has my vote, that is for sure!)

Members of the new Outings Committee are;

- Audrey Alverson
- Sonja Mathis
- Jim Binnings
- Vicky Wilson
- Carroll Wilson

And YOU! Hey, why not? Contact the outings committee and "get in the game".

The committee will manage all outings effective with the New Year.

## Sierra Club Events Calendar, September 2005

### Executive Committee Meeting

**MON 9/12 \* 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 9/13 \* 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)

### Bike Ride Chief Ladiga Trail

**Sat 9/10 \* Call 205-979-3876**

The Chief Ladiga trail is a rails-to-trail project located in North East Alabama. The twenty-mile section we will bike runs between Germania Springs Park, just North of Jacksonville University, to Piedmont. If you do not wish to ride the entire 20-mile section, the trail well marked so you can turn back at any point. The scenery along the trail is very rural; guaranteed to see lots of critters and approaching Piedmont there is a stunning view of Duggar Mountain. The trail is level, wide, paved, and flat, and suitable for any type of bicycle. Bring plenty of water! For more information on the trail, including maps, please visit <http://www.trailexpress.com/chiefladiga/index.php>

We will meet at the Kmart Parking Lot at the corner of Crestwood Blvd. and Montclair Rd, at exit 132b off I -20 at 8 a.m. For more information call Rosey Armstrong 205-979-3876 e-mail [ihunt4fossils2@yahoo.com](mailto:ihunt4fossils2@yahoo.com)

### General Interest Meeting

**TUE 9/13 @ 6:30 PM**

**BIRMINGHAM ZOO AUDITORIUM**

Topic To Be Announced

### Oak Mountain Hike

**Sat 9/17 \* Call 205-822-9026**

Come and enjoy a five to six mile moderate to easy hike on some of the Oak Mountain State Park trails. We will hike the White Trail to the Tranquility Lake and take the Yellow Trail along the lake. From the Yellow Trail we will hike up to the old cabins built in the 1930's and enjoy a snack. We will return to the Yellow Trail and hike to Maggie's Glen for lunch. We will hike to the Red Trail via the Yellow/Red Trail Connector to the Red Trail, then proceed to the 2nd Blue/Red Connector and hike the Blue Trail overlooking the valley below. From there we will return to the Trail Head. Bring lunch and drinks. Meet at the North Trail head at 9:00 am. For more information, call trip leader Marion Henry at 205-822-9026.

### Moss Rock Preserve in Hoover, Alabama

**Sat 9/24 \* Call 205-792-3847**

Moss Rock Preserve Loop is a very serene urban woodland in the heart of Hoover. It is a relatively easy to moderate hike of 3-5 miles in this 250-acre nature preserve. It has Hurricane Creek and a great mix of southern hardwoods, along with the massive rocks of a boulder field.

Bring a picnic lunch and something to drink. Children age 9 and over are welcome. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Day's Inn-Hoover at intersection of I-65, U.S. 31 and Lorna Road in Hoover. For more info call Tammy Dodson, 205-792-3847 or at home at 205-477-4070

### Dayhike, Pinhoti Trail/ Indian Mountain

**Sun 10/2 \* Call 205-221-6196**

This will be a seven to nine mile hike with moderate elevation gain on Alabama's third highest mountain.

If the weather is mild, we will hike to the Georgia line and back. If it's still warm and/or humid, we may shorten the walk somewhat. The fall colors on Indian are stellar, and the vistas on the top of the mountain rival those on Cheaha, the state's highest. Meet 8:00 am at the Cracker Barrel/ I-59 Exit in Trussville. Optional dinner afterwards. Rated: Strenuous. For more info. Contact Carroll Wilson at 205-221-6196 or

[mountain-man@mindspring.com](mailto:mountain-man@mindspring.com)

### Outings Leader Training Huntsville Al

**Sat 10/8 \* Call 256-287-1652**

This is an opportunity for those who are interested in becoming a qualified Sierra Club Outings Leader to do so. The training will last from 9:00 am until about 2:30 pm. We will meet at the Hayden/Corner Park and Ride just off Exit 284 and carpool to Huntsville. For more info, call Joe Copeland at 256-287-2652.

### 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 — September 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/28	8/29	8/30	8/31	9/1	9/2	9/3
9/4	9/5	9/6	9/7	9/8	9/9	9/10 <b>Bike Ride Chief Ladiga Trail</b>
9/11	9/12 <b>Executive Com- mittee Meeting</b>	9/13 <b>Inner City Out- ings Meeting</b>	9/14	9/15	9/16	9/17 <b>Day Hike Oak Mtn State Pk.</b>
9/18	9/19	9/20 <b>General Interest Meeting</b>	9/21	9/22 <b>NO NEWSLET- TER TO MAIL OUT!!!</b>	9/23	9/24 <b>Day Hike Moss Creek Preserve (Hoover AL)</b>
9/25	9/26	9/27	9/28	9/29	9/30	10/1
10/2 <b>Day Hike Pinhoti Trail</b>	10/3	10/4	10/5	10/6	10/7	10/8 <b>Outing Leader Training</b>



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CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

SIERRA CLUB/  
CAHABA GROUP  
1330 21ST WAY  
SOUTH, STE 110  
BIRMINGHAM, AL  
35205

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<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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