

STUDY REVEALS TREND DATA

TREE LOSS, HARD SURFACES ARE DAMAGING DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES



Photo credit: Adrian Fusinaz

The exponential rate at which the metropolitan Atlanta area is sprawling outward is not news to any Georgian who drives. But, there *is* hard news about the rate at which tree canopy has been lost, and hard surfaces added, over the past ten years.

Trend data has revealed that much of the metro region is losing 54 acres of tree canopy, and building over 28 acres of hard surfaces, every single day. Over the past ten years, this daily loss has resulted in the cumulative destruction of almost 197,000 acres of trees and an increase of 103,000 acres of hard (impervious) surfaces.

Highly Accurate New Mapping

These alarming new figures are the result of a study conducted by Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) and the University of Georgia, based on GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping in the 16-county metropolitan area, also known as the North Georgia Metro Water Planning District (District).

A grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission funded the creation of the GIS database by Dr. Elizabeth Kramer, Director, Natural Resources Spatial Analysis Laboratory (NARSAL) at the University of Georgia, which resulted in maps with greater accuracy than previously possible. The data generated by NARSAL is derived from Landsat TM and ETM+ imagery and maps both the percentage of impervious surface and forest canopy in 30 meter pixels (or 30 meter by 30 meter segments in each satellite scene).

Stormwater Contaminates Water Supplies

New impervious surfaces in the District, represented by roads, parking lots, and rooftops of buildings, have dramatically increased the amount and pollution of stormwater runoff which is getting into rivers and streams and contaminating drinking water sources, such as the Chattahoochee River.

The land (or watershed) loses much of its ability to absorb rain when trees and plants are removed. When the earth is replaced with pavement, rain can no longer soak into the ground. Downstream, properties are flooded and waterways polluted with eroded soil from construction sites, bacteria, oil and grease and other substances that are picked up by the stormwater, as it flows over the ground and into nearby streams.



Photo credit: istock.com

See *Trees, Hard Surfaces*, page 7

HELP FOR STRESSED STREAMS AND RIVERS

The startling and unhealthy trends revealed by the recent study of metro Atlanta's tree canopy loss and construction of hard surfaces (*see story above*) demand creative and strategic solutions to protect water and air for current and future generations.

CENTER FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

One highly-respected resource for solving problems with polluted and stressed natural resources is the **Center for Watershed Protection** (CWP) located in Maryland. The CWP provides local governments, watershed organizations and citizen groups throughout the country with the technical tools needed to protect our waterways. These tools include

guidance documents, research and technical tools for dealing with watershed planning, watershed restoration, stormwater management, watershed research, better site design, education and outreach and training.

Clean Water Tools

One of the key strategies offered by the CWP is a comprehensive program for protecting watersheds, also known as *Eight Tools of Watershed Protection*, which includes: watershed planning, land conservation, aquatic buffers, better site design, erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, non-stormwater discharge, and watershed stewardship. The CWP provides technical guidance and information on all of these tools, which, when used together, offer a framework for scientifically-based watershed protection.

The first four tools, in particular, focus on planning and land use strategies that can signifi-

cantly minimize impacts to rivers, streams and lakes with informed early decision-making and avoid irreversible harm. All of the tools should be very useful to local governments in metro Atlanta who are grappling with the region's drastic land use changes that have been highlighted by the recent study.

In order to guarantee enough clean water for families and neighborhoods as communities grow, our local officials must focus on proactive methods and approaches that have proven to be effective in urban areas around the country. The exceptional work and publications of the Center for Watershed Protection can move communities in the right direction and ensure that we will always have sufficient clean water for people and wildlife.

For abundant information and help with any watershed issue, please visit the Center for Watershed Protection online at www.cwp.org.

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Our mission is to advocate and secure the protection and stewardship of the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries and watershed.

REFLECTIONS

I bought my first kayak six years ago. At the time, it served as an appropriate symbol of independence—a purchase that followed closely on the heels of my new single status.

On a UCR staff retreat to Apalachicola, we had rented sea kayaks and I had fallen in love with Dagger's Bayou, a perfect boat for me—stable, but maneuverable. I loved the way that the kayak cut through the water, and that, despite my puny arms, I was able to propel it where I wanted it to go. What a feeling of freedom, adventure and strength!



Photo credit: Beiq Honarvar/AJC

War Vets Find Strength in Rivers

On the Potomac in Washington, D.C., a new kayaking program is bringing the sport to the wounded at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Area kayakers founded Team River Runner to share the physical and spiritual benefits of river running with soldiers who returned from Iraq with physical and mental injuries. Kayaking is bringing these men and women peace within minds and hearts.

In a recent *Washington Post* article, a 22-year-old soldier in the kayaking program said, "What's here is spiritual. . . . The river is the man. You can work with it or let it whip up

on you." The 52-year old high school special education teacher and kayak coach who started this innovative program says, "This is a skill that can make whatever's gone -- a leg, an arm, trust in one's body or mind -- useful again. We want to give that to these soldiers."

Making the Personal Connection

Closer to home, UCR is creating new ways for people to make personal connections, like mine and the Iraq vets, with the Chattahoochee—to strengthen minds and bodies and learn to love the river that flows past our homes and businesses and, literally, through our hearts.

In June, we held our 3rd Annual Back to the Chattahoochee River Race and Festival in partnership with the city of Roswell and National Park Service. Despite the week of rainy weather which preceded the event, this year's race attracted 229 people of all ages and paddling abilities in 146 canoes and kayaks (see page 4).

In August, you can view a beautiful photo essay about the Chattahoochee in *Atlanta Magazine* and also join us at a barbeque beside the river at Buck Shoals in White County. The calendar on our new website (www.chattahoochee.org) includes this event and other river adventures for our members. Please join our growing membership, currently 3,400 people strong, who are supporting UCR's work to keep our river clean and healthy.

Sally Bethea

PARK TAVERN ROCKS DURING RIVER REVIVAL'S SPICY CELEBRATION!

Latin rhythms, exotic dancing dames, and loads of fun is what took place on May 4 at **Park Tavern** at Atlanta's Piedmont Park during Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's 9th Annual River Revival. With excellent food from Park Tavern, beer from **SweetWater Brewery**, and wines from **Whole Foods Market**, more than 400 supporters came out to enjoy this year's *Carnaval for the 'Hooch* theme. Entertainment was provided by the band Kingsized and vocalist Dale Crider. The Dames Aflame dance group were outfitted in festive Carnaval feathers and sequins.



Event co-chair Andrew Sugrue, UCR co-founder Laura Turner Seydel, and UCR Special Events Director Magnus Christon.

The evening featured a live auction, silent auction, and prize drawings. Amidst the partying, **Laura and Rutherford Seydel** (UCR founders) were presented with a special resolution in their honor which was passed by the 2005 Georgia Legislature.

Many thanks to our auction donors who made this year's live auction one of the best yet, netting nearly \$10,000. We express sincere appreciation to the River Revival Host Committee, Co-Chairs **Christine Hung, Rosina Seydel**, and **Andrew Sugrue**, and to our volunteers and guests



Kwanzaa Hall, member of the Atlanta School Board, is surrounded by lovely Dames Aflame.



Sally Bethea (R) presents UCR co-founders Rutherford and Laura Seydel with a resolution in their honor which was passed by the 2005 Georgia Legislature.

who helped this year's event net just over \$50,000 for our advocacy and education programs.

Very special thanks to our **2005 River Revival Sponsors:**

Presenting Sponsors: The Coca-Cola Company, Turner Broadcasting System

River Defender: Donahue Studios

River Advocate: Georgia-Pacific, Newfields, Turner Foundation, Cauley Creek Water Reclamation, Trout Unlimited



Two UCR supporters get into the spirit of Carnaval!

River Sponsor: Georgia Power, Interface, Fonda Family Foundation, Montgomery Watson Harza, The Pacific Group, SweetWater Brewery, Whole Foods Market, Pratt Industries Recycling

Friends of the River: Aquascape Environmental, Atlanta Fly Fishing Club, Southern Civil Engineers, Chevron Texaco, CH2M Hill, Ecological Solutions, EarthShare of Georgia, Federal Home Loan Bank-Atlanta, Stormwater Management, Southwire, Barbara & Duke Roos

Media Sponsor: 96 Rock

Photo credit for all photos: Mary Plotts, Totally Focused Photography



UCR INVOLVED IN DAM LICENSING REVIEW

In June, UCR participated in a national review of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) new process for licensing private hydropower (electricity-generating) dams on rivers. Because of our unique perspective on the successes and failures of the first-ever Integrated Licensing Process (ILP) related to **Georgia Power's Morgan Falls Dam** on the Chattahoochee near Roswell, we were asked to serve on a national panel in Washington, D.C. During the past two years, UCR has worked closely with national groups, American Rivers and the Hydropower Reform Coalition, on this process because of its precedent-setting nature. In addition, our general counsel has been interviewed about the process and participated in a group conference with other non-profit organizations involved in ILPs around the country. We are very concerned about the course the ILP has taken in the Morgan Falls re-licensing, allowing the power applicant to control the licensing process. UCR believes that it is important to share these problems with FERC and hope that this review will result in regulatory changes and/or guidance to help clarify ILP issues.

END IN SIGHT FOR LAKE DISCHARGE BATTLE

A settlement may have been reached in the 4-year legal battle to keep Lake Lanier's water clean from discharges of inadequately treated sewage. In February, the state EPD issued a new, draft permit to **Gwinnett County** for a discharge of 40 million gallons a day of wastewater into the lake. The proposed permit reduced the amount of pollutants that could be discharged, but UCR and co-plaintiff Lake Lanier Association (LLA) were not convinced that the permit was stringent enough to meet the requirements of last November's ruling by the Georgia Supreme Court. Subsequently, LLA met with state legislators and county officials and tentatively agreed to stronger permit conditions, focusing in particular on phosphorus, a primary cause for algal blooms. The settlement would also move the discharge point further from its original location near a beach and deeper into the lake. State fisheries biologists have expressed concerns about potential temperature impacts to the downstream trout fishery. Gwinnett County is currently modeling the proposed new discharge location and will present its conclusions to the state.



WHEN YOU KNOW THE RULES, YOU CAN PLAY THE GAME

Talking to a room of 75 people, including government regulators, stormwater engineers, consultants, contractors and environmentalists, designer/surveyor **Doug Patten** compared the rules of moving dirt, constructing houses and developing land to a golf game. "When you know the rules of the game, the details like stroke, hazard and how to play the ball, you'll know how to play."

A May seminar co-sponsored by UCR and **Centerline Surveying** was the result of an idea Doug visualized while walking one of his sites with UCR's Alice Champagne. In late 2004, UCR threatened to sue for clean water violations at one of his subdivisions, after discussions to resolve problems failed. A stream had been mis-identified, proper permits had not been obtained, and downstream waterways were being harmed. Doug's eyes were opened as UCR helped him understand that state regulations require protection of all waterways on the site and installation of proper erosion controls. Negotiations were held and agreements reached. The waterway was re-classified and proper permits secured.

Developers Hear from One of Their Own

Doug acknowledged the shortcomings of his site plans and decided to share his new-found information about stormwater permitting and erosion laws with other engineers, developers and local governments—focusing on managing risks associated with construction activities.

On Patrol

SEWAGE CLEANUP PROGRESS IN EAST POINT

As reported previously, UCR was alerted to chronic sewage spills in the **city of East Point** by citizens in 2003. Spills were documented in streams in neighborhoods, parks, and school property where they posed a public health threat and damaged private property. UCR's threat to sue the city under the federal Clean Water Act, after other communication efforts failed, prompted the state EPD to discuss the situation with East Point officials. The resulting consent order, signed in September 2004, established a timeline and milestones that the city must achieve. The city has since made substantial progress. Besides a few penalties for late document filing, the city has met all deadlines to date, including hiring a compliance officer, identifying all sewage manholes, and creating an audit scope and schedule for designing the plan to repair the sewage system. We are encouraged by the city's positive actions, but will continue to monitor progress.

CITIZENS FIGHT LANDFILL UPSTREAM OF RESERVOIR

Last spring, citizens in Meriwether County organized **Tri-County Economic Advancement for Meriwether (TEAM)** to fight several landfill proposals and bring in infrastructure and development along I-85. TEAM and other local interests were successful in their opposition to an amendment to the county's water supply watershed ordinance that would have weakened the law and allowed construction of a regional landfill. **Greenbow LLC**, an Alabama company, proposed developing the landfill on a 1500-acre tract of land off Highway 54 in the headwaters of Blue Creek which drains into a drinking water reservoir owned by the city of Hogansville, and ultimately into West Point Lake. Responding to public outrage and environmental concerns, Meriwether County Commissioners voted 5-0 last April not to change the watershed ordinance. A month later, Greenbow sued the Commission, claiming that local ordinances cannot be more limiting than state law; the company has applied for another landfill site closer to I-85. *For more information, email notogreenbow@aol.com.*



A good slate of speakers was needed to present complex topics about reducing the risk of developing and understanding permit requirements. **Ecological Solutions**, the **US Army Corps of Engineers (COE)**, **Applied Polymer Technology** and the **Georgia Center for Law in the Public Interest** were chosen and did a great job.

The discussion of COE regulations governing road crossings and fill had the most impact. Most were unaware that the COE requires compliance with a nationwide permit for certain impacts to waterways. One local county official found the information so enlightening that he sent a memo to plan reviewers and land disturbance applicants, telling them that they must require appropriate COE permits prior to issuance of land disturbance permits.



UCR's Alice Champagne and Doug Patten with Centerline Surveying at a construction site.

The major rules of the game: identify all waterways on your site, plan to protect them, obtain all necessary permits, and install and maintain best management practices. *Information about requirements can be found at the Get the Dirt Out project website, www.getthedirtout.org*

CASTILLO WINS FLATWATER RACE SERIES RACE AND FESTIVAL RAMP UP IN THIRD ANNUAL EVENT

The 3rd Annual Back to the Chattahoochee Race, organized by UCR, National Park Service and the city of Roswell, registered 146 boats with 229 people of all ages who raced the 8-mile “recreational” course to the finish line on the first Saturday in June. An “open” race category was offered for faster paddlers. At least 500 people attended the festival at Riverside Park in Roswell, near the end of the race.

The fastest time for the 10-mile “open” was 76.50 minutes recorded by **Andrew Folpe** in the men’s kayak event. The fastest time for the “recreational” category was 61.15 recorded by **Jay Scott** and **James Holmes** in the men’s tandem kayak event. The Georgia Flatwater Race Series, five races held around the state from March to June, was won by “Iron Man” **Larry Castillo** of Marietta, Georgia.

Young Women from Wisconsin

During race registration on the morning of June 4, two young women from Wisconsin walked up to the table and hesitantly said that they did not realize they had to bring their own boat to participate in the event. They said they would be happy to just attend the festival and did not ask for a registration refund.



Kristine and Ann proudly display their first place ribbons

Chief Ranger **Scott Pfeninger** heard about their plight and immediately found a Park Service canoe for them to use; **Bubba Sloan** of High Country Outfitters loaned them two PFD’s. At the end of the race, **Kristine Kruepke** and **Ann Williams** had won a first place ribbon in the women’s tandem canoe event!

This story illustrates the outstanding team work that has developed in the past three years among the organizers and presenters of this growing annual event. Did you notice **Morgan Rodgers** of the Roswell Parks and Recreation helping every racer out of the water at the finish? His spirit and hard work are typical of the “Back to the Chatt” gang.



Cartoon starters Spongebob, Strawberry Shortcake, Elmo and Tweety Bird help ready the boats.

Something for Everyone at the Race Festival

At the Festival, there were more diverse exhibitors than in previous years, including the American Hiking Society, Small Dog Rescue and Orvis with free fly-casting demonstrations—all of which added to the post-race excitement. For the first time, the event also offered a **Boat Swap** where racers and festival-goers could bring their used equipment to sell and after the race, the finish line was turned into a demonstration area for vendors such as **Dagger** and **Perception**. Mark your calendars to participate in next year’s event which will be held on **June 10, 2006!**

Thanks again to our event sponsors: **Chevron, The Coca-Cola Company, Fox5Atlanta, 96Rock, Harry’s Market, High Country Outfitters** and **Tom’s of Maine**. Special thanks to Lynn McIntyre of the **Chattahoochee Nature Center** for providing the sound system on short notice.



Festival goers relax by the exhibits, listen to music and enjoy their BBQ.

Race times are posted on www.chattahoochee.org. Photos are posted at <http://kent-photo.photorelect.com>

Photo credit for all photos: Kent Ruby

STREAM NAMING CEREMONY, CLEANUP HONOR EARTH DAY

Working with local community groups and elected officials, UCR filed an application with the U.S. Geographic Board of Names earlier this year to officially name a tributary to Proctor Creek in south Atlanta. Our request was approved in April and **A.D. Williams Creek**, named for an ancestor of Martin Luther King, Jr., will now be shown on all future official maps.



NaTaki Osborne with West Atlanta Watershed Alliance speaks at naming ceremony.

A stream naming ceremony, including local and state officials, was held on April 23, complete with a podium in the woods beside the creek and a proud banner strung across the newly-named waterway. After the ceremony, 35 volunteers, which included employees of Golder Associates, BFI, and MassMutual painstakingly removed trash and 77 tires, many of which had been embedded in mud and vegetation for decades.

In a repeat performance of a highly successful cleanup conducted last fall, event organizers included the **city of**

Atlanta, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, BFI/Allied Waste, West Atlanta Watershed Alliance and National Wildlife Federation, in addition to UCR. Popeye’s Chicken was provided to hungry volunteers, along with lots of Dasani bottled water, thanks to **Coca-Cola**.

A week later, UCR staffer Birgit Bolton joined the state EPD and West Atlanta

Watershed Alliance for an Earth Day presentation at nearby A.D. Williams Elementary School, using our *Waters to the Sea* educational program. UCR will continue to work with BFI, as the company completes its efforts to stop debris and leachate from leaving its nearby landfill. We will also continue to advocate that the 35-acre, Atlanta Public School-owned forest which surrounds A.D. Williams Creek, be protected permanently as greenspace. For more information, contact Birgit Bolton at bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org.



Darcie Holcomb, UCR’s Headwaters Conservation Director, and Dave Sligh with Soque River Watershed Association pose next to the new sign describing our stream restoration project at the Savage-Roberts farm in Habersham County. In April, SRWA and UCR hosted a workday and cookout at the site in celebration of Earth Day, which included landowners and members of the two watershed groups, EPA employees, and students from North Georgia Tech.

NEW GRANTS FUND PARTNERS FOR CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce that Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) has received a commitment for financial support from an EPA Environmental Education Grant and additional funding from The Murphy Foundation which will allow us to kick off our *Partners for Clean Water* program during the upcoming school year.



Partnering with **Elachee Nature Center, Boys and Girls Club of Hall County** and the **Latin American Association**, UCR will provide an innovative educational experience for approximately 60 Hispanic students in Gainesville and Hall County. A series of eight sessions will be offered over the course of the school year in which students will receive information about water quality, engage in hands-on activities, and take field trips that are all designed to increase their awareness of local water resource issues.

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Instilling a Water Stewardship Ethic

The program boasts a wide variety of activities designed to engage the students in active learning, highlight the value of clean water and healthy ecosystems, and instill a water

stewardship ethic.

In one session, students will join naturalists from the Elachee Nature Center aboard our floating classroom, *Chota Princess*, to learn about Lake Lanier and the importance of protecting this recreational resource which also serves as an important drinking water supply. With the on-board sampling equipment, each student will have the opportunity to test the water and view freshwater organisms under a microscope. In other sessions, participants will tour a wastewater treatment plant, visit the Buford Trout Hatchery, and learn to

use UCR's award-winning, interactive educational CD, *"Waters to the Sea"*.

The final program session will be a fishing event to be held in conjunction with the state's annual Free Fishing Day. This outreach event will be open to participants and their families to promote fishing as a recreational activity, and also to provide information on ways to safely consume fish caught in Georgia waters. Students and their families will receive Spanish and English versions of the state's fish consumption guidelines.

For more information, contact Darcie Holcomb at dholcomb@ucriverkeeper.org or call 770-531-1064.

WATER USE IT WISELY ESSAY CONTEST FOR JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Teachers, you can kick off the 2005-2006 school year with the annual Clean Water Campaign Essay Contest and get your students to explore important issues related to water quality and conservation!



Focusing on the metro Atlanta area, the purpose of the contest is to help children think about ways that their families can promote clean water practices. This contest is geared towards sixth, seventh and eighth graders from public and private schools in the counties of Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas,

Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton and city school districts.

Participants must submit a 300 to 500-word essay (handwritten or typed) about how people can protect water quality in rivers and lakes and conserve water (at home, school or in the community) at the same time. The papers must include why both water quality protection and water conservation are important. Students must also explain how they would begin making a difference in their communities. Teachers or administrators from middle school in the 16-counties should select one student per grade level to represent their school in the contest.



For additional information regarding essay topics, contest rules, judging and winner prizes, please visit: www.cleanwatercampaign.com

The Clean Water Campaign is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the

Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 16-county District.

Water Use It Wisely is a program that educates consumers about specific and simple water conservation measures they can use everyday to help reduce water use, and to develop and reinforce a water conservation ethic throughout the nation. It originated in Arizona and is now running in California, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington and Washington, D.C.

UCR CELEBRATES DOWN TO EARTH DAY KID'S FEST AT CNC

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper was proud to join **Captain Planet** and many other environmental organizations from throughout Georgia to participate in the 3rd Annual Down to Earth Day Kids Fest at the **Chattahoochee Nature Center**, held on April 23, 2005. 2005 marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of Earth Day. At the event, attended by hundreds of children and their parents, we highlighted our *Waters to the Sea* educational CD-ROM. The "Raindrop's Journey" session was a huge hit with kids, big and small. Using our CD-ROM, children also took a virtual trip to a water quality testing lab, became virtual dam operators, and learned about the earth's water cycle.

Other hands-on activities available to children at the festival included arts and crafts, demonstrations on everything from solar power to clean water, as well as a canoeing demonstration on the pond conducted by REI. The Down to Earth Day Kids Fest proved once again that environmental education can be both informative and a lot of fun for kids.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

After many months of work, our new website is live, and we are pleased with the new look and updated content, thanks to webmaster Daniel Reed with Speck Studios. Please visit our new site and send us your thoughts and comments to bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org. We would love to hear your feedback, so check it out at: www.chattahoochee.org

CAN THE CHATTAHOOCHEE ACCOMMODATE GROWTH IN METRO ATLANTA?

Without good information going into a decision-making process, a good outcome is not likely. Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR) and others have long argued that the underlying assumptions and data used in models to determine flows needed for a clean and healthy Chattahoochee River may be flawed.

A Healthy River Needs Enough Water

Adequate river flows, measured in cubic feet per second (cfs), are necessary to assimilate wastewater from treatment facilities and also to provide ecologically diverse river systems. Inadequate flows in waterways can lead to increased concentration of pollution, loss of river recreation, loss of fish and wildlife, and increased erosion and sedimentation.

The current state standard for the Chattahoochee is not based on modeling or scientific analysis. More than 30 years ago, the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD) mandated a minimum flow of 750 cubic feet per second flow to be maintained at all times in the Chattahoochee River at the confluence of Peachtree Creek in the vicinity of several major discharges from sewage plants. This number was determined arbitrarily and the only clean water standards it aims to meet are dissolved oxygen and temperature. UCR believes that new research is needed to review this flow target, in light of growth projections in the river basin.

Has Over-Allocation Already Occurred?

Some scientists argue not only do we need to reevaluate that flow number, but that we also may have already reached the point at which our use of the river makes any more allocation impossible for maintaining a healthy system. Mark Crisp, P.E. with C.H. Guernsey and consultant

to the city of LaGrange, presented a paper at the 2005 Georgia Water Resources Conference in April entitled, *The State of the Chattahoochee River—a Call to Action*. Crisp argues that over-allocation of the Chattahoochee River has already occurred.

Crisp says that the data which decision-makers have relied on for 30 years does not adequately reflect the new demands on, or needs of, the river system. He concludes, "The demands placed on the Chattahoochee River for water supply, recreation, environment and wastewater effluent assimilation have grown to the point that accommodating all of these uses is not possible during droughts. The maximum limit of available water in storage in the federal reservoir at Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River is exhausted..."



Low water levels in West Point Lake could damage the excellent fishery exhibited here by two young anglers.

The various water allocation proposals in the now-defunct Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) water negotiations assumed that metro Atlanta water demands could be met through 2030 with Lake Lanier levels remaining significantly higher than historic levels in drought years. In order for this scenario to occur, Crisp says that West Point Lake, 65 miles below Atlanta, would need to be drawn down so dramatically to make up for the water shortages that

it would essentially collapse---an outcome which is clearly unacceptable.

The long-term water plans approved in 2003 for the 16-county Metro Water Planning District also rely on what may be faulty information. As the statewide water planning process gets underway this year, it is critical that accurate information on flow needs be determined. Failure to plan correctly now means certain failure for natural systems and economic growth in the decades to come.



UCR's Boat Captain Harlan Trammell

CAPTAIN'S CORNER KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Summer is a very busy time on our waterways. Rivers, lakes and oceans are wonderful places to experience, but they demand the utmost respect. Common mistakes can be paid for with life-threatening situations. Before you head out, know the length, duration, and location of your trip, the weather and water conditions, and emergency procedures.

First, file a float plan with a friend or other responsible person. Use good, current maps to get distances and trip times. Consider a medical emergency and rescue plan. Make sure you have a fresh, well-stocked first-aid kit on board in a dry location. Make sure you know the waters you will travel and can handle them by seeking information from a knowledgeable captain, or other boating expert who has made the run. Always take a cell phone or vhf radio plus a NOAA weather radio.

Weather, the Biggest Concern

Identify weather problems before they occur and postpone your trip, if necessary. Check real-time weather on NOAA weather radio or UCR's website (under Recreation). Check the convective outlooks at www.spc.noaa.gov or www.lightningstorm.com.

Lightning is the number-one killer. There is *no safe place in an open boat in lightning* and your strike probabilities are high in an open boat in a thunderstorm. If you get caught in a cabin boat, don't touch anything metal. In an open boat, get under a bridge, if you can. Drop anchor under the bridge, but *do not rope off on pilings*, as a strike to the bridge will send lightning into your boat through the wet ropes.

Hypothermia is common and can be dangerous. It typically results when an unprepared boater gets caught in a cold rainstorm, or with leaky waders, or immersion. Have rain gear and warming layers on board, especially in winter. A dry change of clothes can be a life-saver, if you fall in. Make sure your cold-weather and rain gear are packed securely in a water-proof dry box.

On UCR's website, you can check river levels, lake conditions, and dam release schedules before you go. Make sure that you and your vessel are capable of handling the day's conditions. Consider wind, dam releases, and currents and know your safety limits. Bottom line: Have a good float plan, use good judgment, know your abilities and your vessel's, and stick with your plan. If conditions are questionable, postpone your trip or go elsewhere. Most of all, enjoy your trip on the water.

TREES, HARD SURFACES

Continued from page 1

The loss of 54 acres of tree canopy every day is also dramatically impacting the region's water and air quality. Almost an acre of hard surface is replacing every two acres of trees removed, resulting in accumulating negative impacts to clean water supplies. In addition, tree canopy is critical to the region for its ability to cool the urban area and clean air to improve our air quality. The mounting loss of tree canopy in our region has far reaching effects on the quality of life of the people who live, own property, and work in the Atlanta region.

Implications for Local Planning

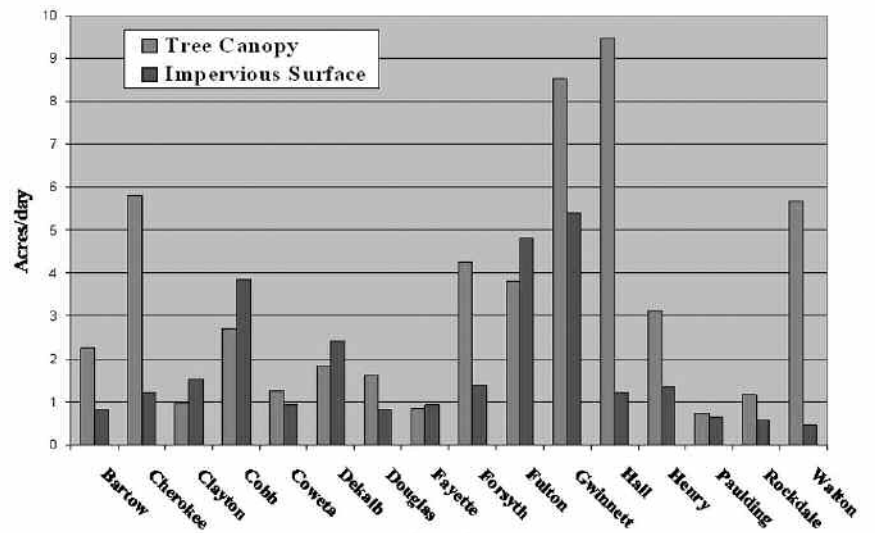
With over two million more people projected to move into the metro area in the next decades, it will be essential for city and county planners, engineers and elected officials to commit to the protection of our drinking water supplies and other waterways, using incentive programs and regulations that control how and where development occurs.

In 2003, a Watershed Management Plan was approved for the Metro Water Planning District which requires local governments to adopt ordinances that control erosion from construction sites and stormwater runoff from paved areas, protect stream buffers, and also allow conservation subdivisions that encourage protection of greenspace.

Mall of Georgia Area



Percent Forest Canopy	
0% - 10%	20.1% - 30%
10.1% - 20%	30.1% - 40%
	40.1% - 50%
	50.1% - 60%
	60.1% - 70%
	70.1% - 80%
	80.1% - 90%
	90.1% - 100%
	100.1% - 110%
	110.1% - 120%



The tree canopy bar shows acres/day lost; the impervious surface bar shows acres/day increase.

While some District counties have passed these ordinances, others are dragging their heels, even though the state Environmental Protection Division is not supposed to issue any new or expanded sewage discharge or withdrawal permits to local governments that are not in compliance with the District's water plans. Of course, passage of these regulations is just the first step; only enforcement will ensure clean water supplies.

Access to the Data

Dr. Kramer and UCR staff have already made presentations of this new data to government and business groups. This summer, we will be meeting with planners in all District counties who are interested in learning about the information. For counties that have GIS capability, the data will be available free of charge on the statewide GIS clearinghouse at the end of the summer (<https://gis1.state.ga.us>).

This new mapping tool will provide local officials and planners with information that highlights areas with the greatest rates of change over the past decade and those that are becoming overdeveloped with high percentages of impervious surfaces and tree loss, thereby harming our waterways.

Clean water and clean rivers and lakes are critical to our communities' future and our quality of life and are what we should pass on to our children. Talk to your local officials and urge them to take steps *now*, by adopting ordinances and incentive programs that protect clean water and, most importantly, by enforcing all clean water laws. Future generations depend on the actions that we take today.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER 15 FALL PATRON DINNER TO HONOR COX ENTERPRISE'S JAMES C. KENNEDY

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper's 11th Annual Patron Dinner will take place on Thursday evening, September 15, at The Foundry at Puritan Mill in Atlanta. Join us to celebrate the achievements of **James C. Kennedy** with Cox Enterprises who is being honored with our *River Guardian Award* for his leadership in advocating for clean water for people and wildlife.

Other honorees are **Dr. Becky Champion** and **John Shepard** for their role in the creation of our *Waters to the Sea* educational program; **Allied Waste Industries, Inc.** for its commitment to helping improve a blighted urban tributary; and **A.J. James**, resident of a south Fulton subdivision, for taking action against an upstream developer who violated clean water laws and harmed her neighborhood.

Enjoy a wonderful dinner with lively entertainment and both a live and silent auction. Seating is limited, so please visit: www.chattahoochee.org to reserve a seat, or

keep a look out for the invitations that will be sent to members. You can also contact our Special Events Director, **Magnus Christon**, at mchriston@ucriverkeeper.org.



Event patrons enjoy dinner and entertainment at UCR's 10th Anniversary Dinner last fall.

Alice Champagne named River Hero!

River Network and 500 river leaders from around the country honored Alice Champagne and her co-River Heroes at the River Heroes Banquet during the National River Rally in Keystone, CO on May 23, 2005.



Alice Champagne (L), Dana Skelton with Georgia River Network and Sally Bethea.



Georgia waterkeepers (Chandra Brown, Gordon Rogers, Sally Bethea, Frank Carl and James Holland) enjoyed an early May paddle down the Satilla River.

ACTION ALERT

CONTACT GOVERNOR PERDUE NOW! FEES COLLECTED TO STOP SOIL EROSION MUST BE FULLY APPROPRIATED

Soil erosion and sedimentation in fast-growing areas such as metro Atlanta, located near the headwaters of five major river basins, has been documented as a major source of pollution—harming drinking water supplies, recreation areas, and downstream property values.

In 2003, the Georgia legislature passed a bill to reform the state's soil erosion control laws. This legislation included a requirement that every developer/land disturber pay a user fee of \$80 per acre to support education, enforcement and administrative activities conducted by the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and local governments who issue land disturbance permits.

Developers agreed to pay these fees as a trade-off for *significant* reductions in water quality monitoring requirements at construction sites. These monitoring requirements were reduced in August 2003, and the state EPD began to collect user fees in December 2003. Clean water advocates had been told that after several years of fee collection, EPD would be able to hire 80 new erosion inspectors and administration personnel throughout the state. In addition, monies were to be used to implement a mandatory education and certification program.

More Than a Third of Fees Raided by Legislature

As of mid-June, 2005, the agency had collected \$6,981,486 from developers in 18 months. Pursuant to the Georgia Constitution, EPD must place these funds in the state's

general treasury for appropriation back to EPD by the legislature each year.

To date, the Georgia legislature has returned only \$4.4 million of the almost \$7 million collected to enforce clean water laws—more than one-third of collected monies have not been made available for intended purposes.

What You Can Do

As Governor Perdue prepares his state budget this fall for presentation to the 2006 legislature, it is critical that he include an appropriation for all user fees collected by the state EPD for land disturbance activities.

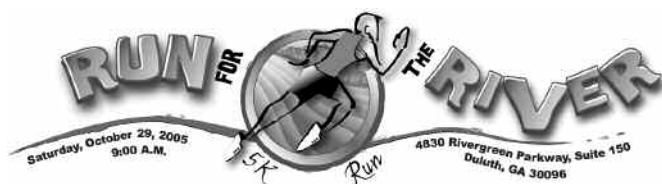
Write a brief, personal letter to Governor Perdue at The State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334.

- Tell the Governor that you want all of the collected fees allocated to programs that enforce Georgia's erosion control laws and educate developers, inspectors and others who implement these programs.
- Mention that you would support a Constitutional Amendment dedicating these user fees for the specified purposes.

Also, please send copies of your letter to your state representative and state senator. *You can find out who these individuals are and get their contact information at www.sos.state.ga.us/misc/districts.htm.*

SECOND ANNUAL RUN FOR THE RIVER 5K SET FOR OCTOBER 29, 2005

Hooked On the Outdoors magazine, a national outdoor lifestyle publication based in Atlanta, is excited to again sponsor and produce the second annual *Run for the River 5K*, benefiting UCR.



year's event was title sponsored by **Subaru of America** and raised \$6,000. The race is an accredited 'Run & See Georgia' qualifier run.

"Hooked On the Outdoors is all about getting readers involved with things that affect our environment," says long-time UCR supporter **Jeff Espy**, CEO of Adventure, LLC and **Hooked On the Outdoors**. "This race provides a fun opportunity for runners to directly contribute to keeping our local drinking water safe and clean."

The race will again take place in Duluth at 4830 River Green Parkway, Suite 150. Runners may register online at www.chattahoochee.org or www.runfortheriver.org. Registration fees are \$20 pre-race and \$25 on site. Start time is set at 9:00 a.m. and a post-race Expo will follow on site, featuring food, entertainment, free gear and prizes, and information on local environmental groups. For additional information or questions, call the *Run for the River 5K* hotline at 678-287-4010.



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

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River Matters

Train the Trainer Workshop August 5-7
Participants will become AAS Trainers and Healthy Water, Healthy People facilitators. For questions or to sign up, contact Jessica Stelzner at: Jessica_Stelzner@dnr.state.ga.us

Buck Shoals Barbeque and River Float August 20
Contact Magnus Christon at 404-352-9828 ext. 12 or mchriston@ucriverkeeper.org

Big Trees Forest Preserve Hike September 10
Contact Birgit Bolton at 404-352-9828 ext. 24 or bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org

Patron Appreciation Dinner September 15
Contact Magnus Christon at 404-352-9828 ext. 12 or mchriston@ucriverkeeper.org

McIntosh Reserve Paddle October 29-30
Contact Birgit Bolton at 404-352-9828 ext. 24 or bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org

Run for the River October 29
Contact Magnus Christon at 404-352-9828 ext. 12 or mchriston@ucriverkeeper.org

Pontoon Float TBA
Contact Birgit Bolton at 404-352-9828 ext. 24 or bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org

Membership Meeting November 3
Contact Page Gleason at 404-352-9828 ext. 19 or pgleason@ucriverkeeper.org

Get the Dirt Out Workshops
For workshop dates, contact Alice Champagne at 404-352-9828 ext. 16 or achampagne@ucriverkeeper.org

X-MAS 2005 December 9
Contact Magnus Christon at 404-352-9828 ext. 12 or mchriston@ucriverkeeper.org

Back to the Chattahoochee River Race & Festival June 10, 2006
Contact Birgit Bolton at 404-352-9828 ext. 24 or bbolton@ucriverkeeper.org

