



The mission of South River Watershed Alliance is to protect and restore the water quality and biodiversity of the South River watershed to the beneficial use of people and wildlife.

## **April 2013**

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South River

**Take Action in Support of South River**

## this Earth Day



Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. On this day we pause and take particular notice of the environment and engage in actions, activities, and projects to show our gratitude.

Like the legendary Phoenix, South River is rising. It has suffered mightily at the hands of DeKalb County and City of Atlanta, but the days of rampant unregulated pollution are gone and as a result the river's water quality has significantly improved. Community awareness and support for South River continues to increase as more and more people realize that having a river in their midst is special.

What is missing from this groundswell of community enthusiasm is the backing of DeKalb County's leadership - the CEO and most of its Commissioners, particularly those who represent districts in the southern part of the county.

The support of DeKalb's elected officials is absolutely essential to the successful restoration of South River. **They hold control over access to state funds that can be used to pay for upgrades that will improve access to the river. And, water trail designation for South River cannot be achieved without their help.**

Throughout the Atlanta region and statewide, citizen's paddle, kayak, and tube Georgia's rivers - the Chattahoochee, Yellow, Oconee, Flint, Altamaha, Ogeechee, Etowah to name just a few. Some have already

achieved water trail status. Besides being invaluable natural resources what these rivers all have in common is that they enjoy the support of the municipalities and elected officials along their routes.

Having a river that flows so prominently through south DeKalb County is a big deal. Not every county has one and even fewer communities can claim one. As Earth Day approaches, SRWA urges supporters of South River throughout south DeKalb County to make an in person appeal, place a phone call and/or send an email to CEO Ellis and your BOC representatives. **Each BOC member's phone number and email address can be found [here](#).** Ask them to show their support by actively supporting two important SRWA initiatives:

- The first will create better and safer access to South River through the **construction of canoe/kayak put in and takeout ramps**. There are state funds available to do the work but the county must apply for these funds.
- The second initiative focuses on **achieving water trail designation for South River**. A water trail provides connections to an areas diverse history, ecology, geology, and wildlife and can contribute to economic development and protect resources that are important to the quality of life of local residents.

After contacting your elected representatives, send a quick email to [southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com) to let us know that you took action to help South River.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Saturday, April 20, 9:00AM - "Spreading the Love" South River Clean-up and Exploration**

Make your Earth Day special and volunteer to help at one of four sites. Additional river clean-up details are below.

1. South River at Constitution Lakes
2. South River at Panola Shoals
3. South River at Panthersville Road
4. South River at Waldrop Road

### **Saturday, May 18, 9:00AM - Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing Panola Shoals Trailhead (Panola and Snapfinger Roads)**

If you have a desire to experience the awe inspiring natural beauty of South River, this is your opportunity. Spaces fill up quickly so [register now](#). Additional event details can be found below.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **South River Jamboree - October 5, 2013**

Details about the first annual South River Jamboree will be announced soon.

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## Spreading the Love: Four South River Clean up and Exploration Opportunities

Just in time for spring and Earth Day, explore South River while lending a hand to remove trash and debris from the river's bank and floodplain.



Clean ups will be held Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Send a quick email to [southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com) to let us know you are participating. **All clean up materials will be provided. However, be sure to wear long pants, a hat, boots or sneakers, and bring sunscreen.** Join us and volunteer to help at one of the following four sites:

### **South River at Constitution Lakes** (sponsored by SRWA and Friends of Constitution Lakes)

Directions: We will gather at the Fleetwood Drive, SE entrance to Constitution Lakes. Going south on Moreland Avenue (from I-20) turn left onto Bailey Street, SE and follow to Fleetwood. If you cross the railroad tracks you have gone too far. For directions from other departure points type, Moreland Avenue at Bailey Street, into [Google Maps](#) for the best route.

### **South River at Panola Shoals**

Directions: Intersection of Panola Road and Hwy 155 (Snapfinger Road)

### **South River at Panthersville Road**

Directions: Panthersville Road crosses South River just below Georgia Perimeter College

### **South River at Waldrop Road**

Directions: South of intersection of Flat Shoals Road and Waldrop Road

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## South River Canoe Outing May 18

SRWA's first Beyond the Bridge South River canoe outing for 2013 is Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Last year these events were an enormous success and our goal is to repeat



the success this year. If you have a desire to experience the awe inspiring natural beauty of South River this is your opportunity. One thing is for sure, after such an up close and personal experience, you will never see the river quite the same again.

Prior canoeing experience is not necessary but a sense of adventure will heighten the experience. Canoeists should be in good physical condition and able to paddle for an extended period. We will put in at Panola Shoals, intersection of Snapfinger Road (Hwy 155) and Panola Road, and take out at Klondike Road at the Rockdale County line. The 5.5 mile trip will take approximately four hours and is an excellent way to have great fun, meet new people, and make new friends.

Cost of the trip is \$30 per person which covers the cost of canoe rental, insurance, and lunch. Space is very limited and provided on a first come first serve basis. Pay [here](#) to reserve space. Contact Jackie Echols via email at [southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com) or call 404-285-3756 for more information.



**Prescribed Burning at Panola  
Mountain State Park**



**Support South River Watershed  
Alliance**

Panola Mountain State Park is planning to conduct a prescribed burn some time before Wednesday, May 1st. The burn area will be the western half of a grassland restoration zone referred to as the "Power-of-Flight" area. The exact date of the burn will depend on specific weather conditions. All emergency and county agencies have been advised and will be notified on the day of the burn.

**The burn is designed to control invasive species, reduce hardwood growth, and promote native grasses and flowers.** It is part of a long term ecological restoration effort at Panola. Anyone with questions should contact the park office at 770-389-7801.

By financially supporting SRWA you are investing in the future of South River and the health of the watershed. And, if you happen to live near the river, you are also investing in your community as well. A clean South River is what we all want but as is the case with most things that are worth having, a healthy South River is not free.

Your donation of \$35 or more will really help to secure the river's future. Please donate securely [online](#) or mail to SRWA, PO Box 1341, Decatur, GA 30031. Thank you for your support.

**Do you want to get regular updates on SRWA activities and learn more about what we do? Follow us on Twitter and connect with us on Facebook. Links to our pages are just below.**

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