



**January 2013**

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South River

**The New Year is Filled with Partnerships and Opportunities**

Restoring and protecting South River is a big job! As a matter of fact, no one group or organization can adequately restore and/or protect South River, the job is simply too big! There are enough opportunities and challenges to share. This is where partners come in.

Partnerships provide the capacity to achieve what may not otherwise be achieved and are created because organizations, agencies and businesses believe they can better achieve their goals by working together. In partnership with others, SRWA can deliver better outcomes for South River and the community.

As we head into a new year, SRWA would like to acknowledge and thank our partners as well as extend an invitation to others that would like to lend a hand in support of South River in 2013.

Partnerships provide unique resources and benefits. Below is a list of our partners and a snapshot of the help they provided in 2012:

[Arabia Mountain High School](#) - The focus of the 9th grade class is water. South River serves as an outdoor classroom and through experience-based learning students expand their knowledge of and respect for the environment.

[Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance](#) - Their generous support of SRWA's Beyond the Bridge project made it possible to offer river outings to the public at no charge.

[DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management](#) - Increased community awareness by installing signage at South River bridge crossings throughout south DeKalb County and assisted with river cleanups especially the removal of tires.

[White Water Learning Center of Georgia](#) - South River outfitter provided canoe outing services at a reduced cost because he believes in SRWA mission.

[Georgia River Network](#) - Provided vital link to Georgia's state-wide river community; South River Water Trail development assistance and organization capacity building support.

[City of Atlanta, Department of Watershed Management](#) - Offered access to existing South River watershed related plans and watershed maps.

[Panola Mountain State Park](#) - Working with SRWA to plan and implement projects that mutually benefit the park and river.

[Corporate Environmental Risk Management \(C.E.R.M\)](#) - Helping to open doors to private sector support for South River.

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## Upcoming Events

### **Sunday, January 13 - [Winter Cocoa Walk](#)**

Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Don't let winter stop you from hiking! Brave the cold with a warm drink in hand and experience the natural and cultural resources of the Preserve during winter. Please bring your own travel mug and dress appropriately for the weather.

### **Monday, January 21, 9:00AM - Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service**

Panola Shoals Trailhead (intersection of Snapfinger and Panola roads)

Students from Georgia Perimeter College and SRWA are teaming up to clean up Panola Shoals and the Everett Property as part of a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's birthday. Join us at 9:00 at Panola Shoals.

Clean-up ends at 12 noon.

## Saturday, January 26 - [Ranger Rendezvous](#)

Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Meet up with Park Ranger Robby Astrove out on trail for a more rugged and adventurous experience of the Preserve. The 4-5 mile hike will be moderate-difficult. Registration is required to receive trailhead directions and rendezvous location. Please register with [rlastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:rlastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov).

Other Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve events:

- **Hike/Bike for the Health of it!** Sundays at 8:00AM
- **Exercise and Aerobics!** 2nd Saturdays, 8:30-10:00AM & Noon-1:30PM
- **Real Talk, Real Food, Real Spirit Forum**, 2nd Saturdays, 1:30-3:30PM
- **Healthy Cooking Demos!** 2nd Saturdays, 10:30AM-Noon

## You Can Be as Smart as a 9th Grader

The environmental focus of 9th grade students at Arabia Mountain High School is water. As a result of an educational partnership between the high school and SRWA, South River has become a valuable outdoor classroom for



Arabia Mountain High School students

students. Most formal environmental education is focused on children and takes place in school or some type of school sanctioned outdoor activity. The underlying idea is that children can be taught to value and act responsibly toward the environment unlike adults who are generally "set in their ways" or otherwise to jaded to take an active or meaningful interest. There is a counter-argument to this view that SRWA aspires to and works to achieve - adult environmental education is just as if not more important as that received by children. Why, because adults are more likely than children to be significant players in communities, groups, and locations and are able to motivate, organize and possess the necessary awareness upon which to base political action and to influence and educate others.

Most environmental education opportunities available to adults are informal - no school or homework - but are oftentimes not easy to find. SRWA offers the opportunity for grown-ups to experience and learn about South River and its environment. Our programs are hands-on, exciting, rewarding and yes, easy to find. You need to look no further than SRWA's monthly newsletter or [website](#) for ways to enjoy our South River adventures. Canoe trips and river walks come with lessons about pollution sources, stormwater runoff, native

and invasive plants, aquatic life and wildlife, streambank erosion and much more. River cleanups are a way to give back to the river and gain insights about how you can help to eliminate the most preventable source of South River pollution - trash. Water quality monitoring teaches participants how to sample and measure different types of water contamination. If you have taken part in one of SRWA's activities you know how easy it is to become so captivated by South River and the experience that you don't realize how much you are learning.

South River is a phenomenal outdoor classroom and we have a variety of activities planned for 2013. No prior environmental experience necessary and we are easy to find. If you aren't already, pretty soon you can be smarter than a 9th grader.

Note: Importance of adult environmental education is attributed to the work of Deidre Slattery, *Adult Environmental Education and Ecology*, (2000).

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## Website Updated

SRWA has made changes to its [website](#). Visit, see what's new, and let us know what you think.