



Upcoming Events

Second South River Canoe Outing Saturday, July 21st

As with the first outing, canoers will put in at Panola Shoals at the intersection of Snapfinger Road and Panola Road and take out at Klondike Road at the Rockdale County line. The 5.5 mile trip is an excellent way to learn about and develop a lasting connection to South River while having loads of fun, meeting new people and making new friends.



Thanks to the sponsorship and generosity of [Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance](#), SRWA was able to offer the outing free of charge to the public. Though there are no more spaces available for the July 21st outing, another outing is scheduled for September 8th (more details below).

South River Monitoring Tuesday, August 28th

Volunteers are needed to assist with collecting water samples. If you would like to help or simply observe how sampling is done, consider volunteering. Monitoring teams are being formed. Formal Adopt-A-Stream training is not required to volunteer. Contact Morris Sammons, SRWA Monitoring Coordinator, 678-346-0675 or email mos3613@comcast.net if you would like to volunteer.

Multi-jurisdiction Celebration of South and Yellow Rivers Saturday, September 8th and 15th

[Georgia River Network](#), [South River Watershed Alliance](#), [Yellow River Conservation and Preservation](#), and [Rivers Alive](#) will host “Unveiling the Red-Headed Step Rivers of Metro Atlanta” back-to-back weekend celebrations of metro Atlanta’s two most undervalued and obscure rivers. Highlighting South River on September 8th and Yellow River on September 15th, this extravaganza provides an occasion to rediscover Atlanta’s nearly forgotten rivers. Planned activities include river clean up training and cleanup, natural history river floats and much more. Mark your calendar. Additional details to follow soon.

Planning Workshop for Water Trail Designation Saturday, October 13th

What is a water trail? Learn more [here](#) and attend [Georgia River Network's](#) 4th annual planning workshop for river groups interested in working towards and achieving water trail designation for their river on October 13, 2012. This year, SRWA and Yellow River Conservation and Preservation, new to the water trail designation effort, will join with river organizations from across Georgia to receive guidance and insight into the process. The Yellow River group has offered to host the workshop in the city of Porterdale (near Covington) on the waterfront. Additional meeting details to come.

Restoring South River a Future of Opportunity

Here is just some of what you missed if you didn't attend the "River of Opportunity: Community-led Restoration of South River and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice" workshop on June 9th. A history of South River as shared through storytelling passed down through generations; a sobering look at the limits of the law in Georgia when making a claim of environmental (in)justice; and spirited dialogue about why stream restoration is the most viable option for achieving environmental justice for South River and surrounding communities. You missed a map drawing exercise that tested participants' knowledge of South River's route from the city of Atlanta, where it begins, to Jackson Lake, where it ends and finally, a song writing competition where groups of participants substituted their own lyrics about South River to the tune of "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land".



We are all familiar with the accepted wisdom of seizing the moment and answering when opportunity knocks. Right now, against the backdrop of the eight year deadline imposed by the DeKalb County Consent Decree, south DeKalb residents have the best opportunity to restore South River they have had for over 50 years. For the first time in a very long time South River is a river of opportunity; seize the moment, opportunity is knocking.

"Get the Trash Out" South River Cleanup



Sincere thanks to those who came out to help spruce up the banks of South River and support the first SRWA river cleanup on June 23rd. We were a small group but we made a big difference removing 29 bags of trash, 4 tires and one steel beam from Panola Shoals and Everett Property on Klondike Road. Removing

trash and litter is an effective way to improve the visual beauty of South River as well as improve the habitat of aquatic and other wildlife that depend on the river. Consider volunteering, you will be able to see the difference.

SRWA Adopts South River, Volunteers Needed to Help Collect Water Samples

Armed with knowledge and know-how gained from training provided by DeKalb County Adopt-A-Stream instructor Michael O'Shield, South River and its creek tributaries have gained 10 newly certified stream monitors. Those attending the July 7th training learned how to take water samples, test for fecal coliform (e coli) bacteria, the main cause of pollution in urban waterways nationwide, and report sample findings to the Adopt-A-Stream statewide database and website. Also, as a result of this training SRWA has officially adopted South River.

Initial water quality testing will take place in partnership with the Upper Ocmulgee Resource Conservation and Development Council which is conducting a three-year watershed-wide assessment of fecal coliform pollution in South River and its tributaries. Water testing will begin on August 28th. Volunteers are needed to assist with collecting water samples. If you would like to help or simply observe how sampling is done, consider volunteering. Monitoring teams are being formed. Formal

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Initial Work Group for South River Water Trail Designation Forming

Relatively few communities can lay claim to a river, making South River a valuable amenity to south DeKalb County. A long-term goal of SRWA is to achieve water trail designation for the river. We are in the process of creating a working group to engage in important initial water trail planning. Designation of South River as a water trail will help unleash the energy of the entire community as well as our downstream neighbors in support of the river and will bring together an array of resources that will go a long way towards its restoration. If you have an interest in volunteering this is a great opportunity to move from wanting to get involved to actually getting involved. Regardless of your interest – restoration, education, advocacy, fundraising – your voice and energy are needed. To volunteer, call Jackie Echols 404-285-3756 or email southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com.

South River Watershed Alliance is leading the way to restore and protect South River by raising the visibility and promoting the value of Atlanta's "other river."



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