



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.

## June 2014

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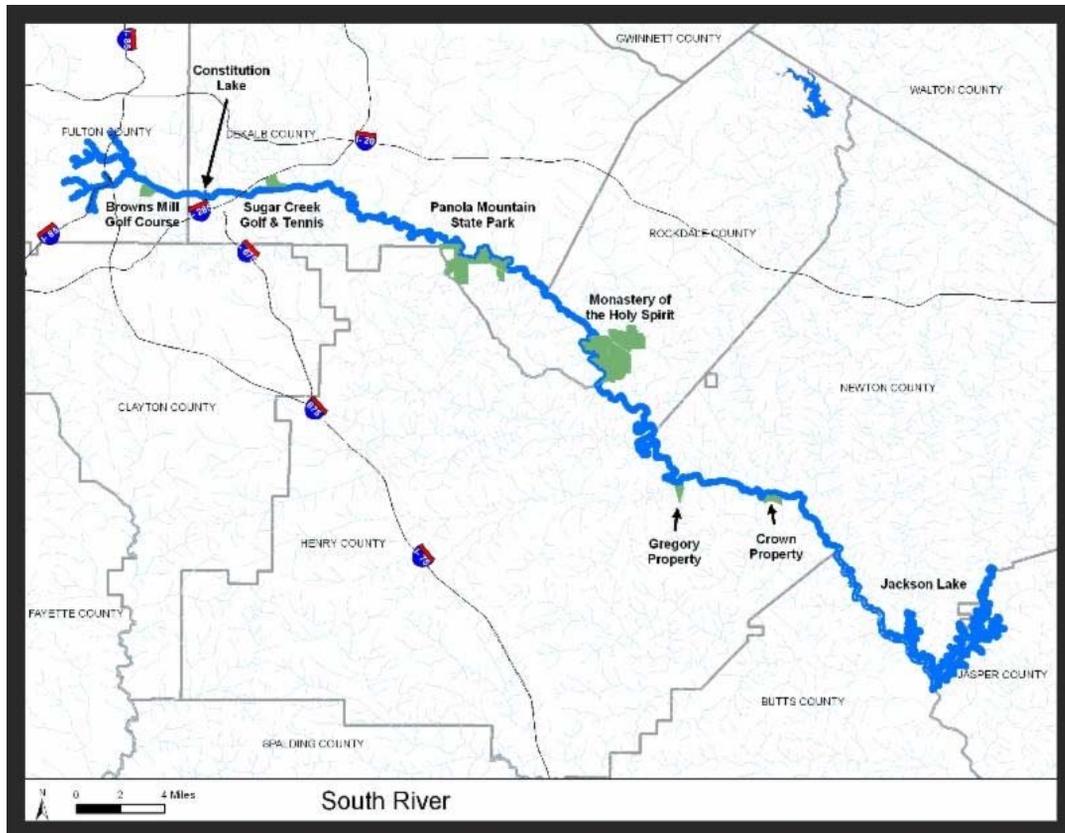
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**Having Fun on South River**

Please share this newsletter with neighbors and friends



## Jewels of the South River

A map that shows the entire length of the South River from Atlanta to Jackson Lake is long overdue. As shown on existing city and county maps, the South River ends at each respective jurisdictional line. When asked to identify the educational tool that would be most helpful in raising public awareness about the South River the overwhelming public response has been a map.

There is a host of map-based navigation systems such as Googlemaps and Mapquest all created with one result in mind, helping people to visualize and find their way from one point to the next. Maps not only help us to find our way but alert us to what we can expect to see along a particular route. They help us to familiarize ourselves with the spaces around us, whether near or far. With the help of a map, we can see what's around the corner, across town, or across the world. Maps are used to spark community interest, show community boundaries, and help plan for now and the future. A map can

actually reduce a thousand words to one picture and tell stories about what was, what is, and what can be. Nothing takes the place of a map.

SRWA is working to create a map of the South River from its beginning to its "official" end. We would like to have as much community input as possible, up and down the river, with creating this map. Of course, it will include all of the cultural, historical, greenspaces, and other well known sites of interest.

But we also want to include features that are less well known but are important to you. SRWA needs your help to identify sites and landmarks all along the South River in your neighborhood or community that you would like to see included.

This is your opportunity to nominate your jewel of the South River. It could be a specimen native tree, breathtaking view, little known site or point of interest, or other feature that is worthy of inclusion. Send your nomination(s) along with your phone number to [southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com) by July 31, 2014 and someone from SRWA will be in touch.

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# "Try the Trail " 30th Mile Celebration



# TRY THE 14 JUN SATURDAY 8AM-2PM TRAIL

Free Bike Rentals Archery Wildlife Encounters Kayaking Prizes Games  
Ribbon Cutting and Events Begin at 8am at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit

**30 MILES OF PATH TRAIL, ENDLESS ADVENTURE**

Just 20 minutes east of Atlanta a 30 mile paved hike/bike PATH system is waiting for you! Celebrate in the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area with over a dozen family friendly events and activities!

**CELEBRATION SCHEDULE**

[www.arabiaalliance.org/news/trythetrail](http://www.arabiaalliance.org/news/trythetrail)



*This celebration was made possible in part by a grant from the National Park Foundation through the generous support of Coca-Cola, the Coca-Cola Foundation, Disney, and the Scrooby Foundation.*





**Taking a Break - South River Canoe Outing**

## **SRWA 2014 Paddle Series**

Join SRWA for a canoe paddle trip this summer. Experience the South River firsthand and be prepared to be amazed. [Sign up](#).

### **Paddle dates:**

June 28 - Panola Shoals to Klondike Road (DeKalb)

August 2 - Panola Shoals to Klondike Road (DeKalb)

September 13 - Lorraine Park to Oglesby Bridge Road (Rockdale)

## **Upcoming Events**

Visit our new Events calendar [www.southernriverga.org](http://www.southernriverga.org)

### **SRWA "Try the Trail" Event, Panola Shoals, Saturday, June 14, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join SRWA at Panola Shoals, 4432 Panola Road, in Lithonia from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The North American Native Fish Association will provide a live display of fish from the South River. Thomas Peters, rivercane extraordinaire, will offer a firsthand look into one of nature's most effective native green infrastructures - rivercane. You can also register to win a South River canoe outing or purchase a SRWA t-shirt (\$20) to show your support.

### **Where the Water Goes Series - Ocmulgee Wildlands, Saturday, June 14, 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

The fourth leg of the Where the Water Goes Series will head further southeast to the Ocmulgee River. The South River joins the Yellow and

Alcovy Rivers at Jackson Lake, then flows on to become Georgia's Ocmulgee River. Participants will paddle several miles on the Ocmulgee below Macon, where the river begins to take on the character of a classic coastal plain stream. This rich ecosystem hosts a great diversity of birds and wildlife. This will be a full-day adventure. Cost is \$65 per person includes canoe/kayak (BYOL). Van transportation from Atlanta is available. Limit 16, van limit 12. To RSVP and for additional information [click here](#). Details and directions sent to registered participants.

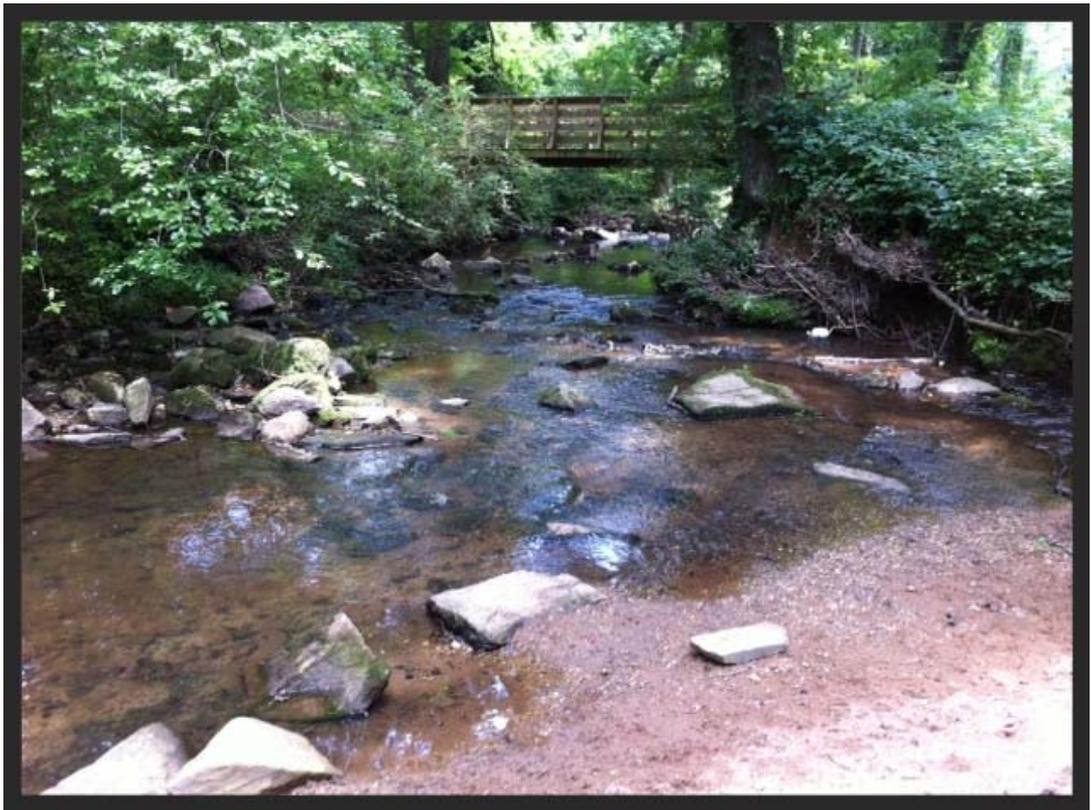
**South River Canoe Outing, Saturday, June 28, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

We will paddle the DeKalb County section of the river from Panola Shoals to Klondike Road, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles. Canoeing experience is not required but participants should be physically able to paddle for an extended period without tiring. The cost is \$40 which includes canoe rental, insurance, and lunch. Canoe space is limited to the first 14 participants. Contact Jackie (404) 285-3756 if you have questions. Kayakers are welcome and should contact Jackie for additional information. [Sign up](#).

**Upcoming Events at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve**

**Monastery of the Holy Spirit, 2625 Hwy 212 SW, Conyers, GA, Saturday, June 14, 9:00 - 2:00 p.m.** We can't wait to share the trail with you so we've lined up fantastic events all along the trail! The party starts at 8am with a ribbon cutting and inaugural bike ride at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit. The fun continues all day with free bike rentals, archery, kayaking , games, and more! [Find out more.](#)

**Summer Solstice on the Mountain @ Davidson-Arabia Nature Center, June 21, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.** Join Ranger Robby for an evening interpretive hike to learn more about the Preserve's plants, animals, and historic structures. Stay for a campfire with stories, music, and fellowship. Please RSVP for directions to Wilburn Farm, [rastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:rastrove@dekalbcountyga.gov). Free.



**Shoal Creek at Dearborn Park**

## **Shoal Creek**

Shoal Creek is part of the Ocmulgee River Basin and is approximately 7 miles in length from headwaters to the South River. The Shoal Creek sub-watershed is located in the northern more developed portion of the South River watershed and comprises about 10 percent of its total area. The creek begins just south of US-278, southeast of Decatur and east of Agnes Scott College (Coordinates: 33.769294°, -84.286914°) and flows south. Shoal Creek crosses I-20 and I-285 and intersects South River approximately at the intersection of Boring Rd. and Flat Shoals Pkwy (Coordinates: 33.769294°, -84.286914°).

Due to size and land use characteristics, 60 percent medium density residential, the Shoal Creek sub-watershed is the third highest pollutant contributor in the South River Watershed (Annual Report, DeKalb County South River Watershed Management Implementation Project, 2003). The creek's designated use is fishing but is impaired for fecal coliform due to urban stormwater runoff.

Shoal Creek enhances many neighborhoods, parks, and greenspaces along its route passing through Winnona Park, Dearborn Park, Shoal Creek Park, Misty Waters Park, Glendale Park, Glenwood Hills Park, and Exchange Park and has several small unnamed tributaries that join it.

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## DeKalb County Consent Decree Supplemental Environmental Project

The Supplement Environmental Project (SEP) required under the DeKalb County consent decree is well underway. The SEP is a one time cleanup of waterways that are specifically identified in the consent decree. Over the past several months, teams from Site Engineering, the company that received the contract, have completed clean up of the entire length of the North and South Forks of Peachtree Creek (DeKalb County) and Snapfinger Creek. The clean up of Snapfinger Creek resulted in the removal of 950 tires and 67 tons of trash, shopping carts, plastics, and other debris. Work will begin on the South River within the next week.

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### Repeats & Reminders

#### DeKalb County BoC

Lee May, Interim DeKalb County CEO  
404-371-2881  
[Email](#)

Elaine Boyer, District 1  
404-371-2844  
[Email](#)

Jeff Rader, District 2  
404-371-2863  
[Email](#)

Larry Johnson, District 3  
404-371-2425  
[Email](#)

Sharon Barnes Sutton, District 4  
404-371-4749  
[Email](#)

Lee May, District 5  
404-371-4745  
[Email](#)

Kathie Gannon, District 6  
404-371-4909  
[Email](#)

#### Septic System Grants

The Upper Ocmulgee River Resource Conservation and Development Council has funds available for cost-share grants for installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will help improve water quality in the South River basin. BMPs may include maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of failing septic system, trash and debris cleanup, and the elimination of stream access to domestic animals.

Grant awards are reimbursement only (i.e., the property owner must pay for installation of the BMP and will be reimbursed for up to 50% of the cost). There will be a cap on the amount of money that can be reimbursed for any one project.

Areas eligible to receive these grants include any properties which drain to the South River or any of its tributaries. For additional

Stan Watson, District 7  
404-371-3681

[Email](#)

information Bob Scott, Program  
Manager, 678-376-9518.



Albert Shoals



Rivercane

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[www.southeriverga.org](http://www.southeriverga.org)

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**BECOME A MEMBER**

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