



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.

## October 2014

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Red Cockaded Woodpecker

## Change of Venue for South River Jamboree

Due to logistical challenges that could not be overcome the venue for South River Jamboree "Serenade By the River" has been moved to Vaughters Farm, a lovely restored farmhouse that is headquarters of Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, 3350 Klondike Road, Lithonia, GA. The event is this coming Saturday, October 4, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Show your support for the South River attend South River Jamboree. There is still time to [purchase tickets](#).

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## A Special Thank You to Our South River Jamboree Sponsors



C • E • R • M



patagonia



Stephanie Stuckey Benfield  
Laura Turner Seydel  
William "Bill" Eisenhauer

Kelly Jordan  
Lucy and Sophie Oldham

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## **September in Photos**



The South River Stewardship Network gathered for a luncheon meeting on September 13th. Teachers from five schools - Arabia Mountain High School, Martin Luther King Jr. High School, Southwest DeKalb High School, and General Ray Davis Middle School, Columbia Middle School - exchanged ideas about how to engage youth in projects that focus of the South River as an environmental learning canvas. One of the first activities the schools will participate in is the South River Rivercane Reintroduction project which will begin this fall. The goal of the Stewardship Network is to encourage and assist schools with utilizing the South River as an outdoor classroom and increase environmental awareness and a lifelong appreciation for the natural world and conservation among participating students..

***The best way to ensure that things remain the same is to do nothing.***



Jackie Echols (c) received the conservation award from the Daughters of the American Revolution at their September 18th meeting. Also pictured are DAR members Christine Lanzing (l) and Mary Lynne Keener (r).



Lucy and Sophie Oldham are two of the South River's greatest fans. On a hot day, Albert Shoals is their favorite place to hang out. They are also South River Jamboree sponsors.

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## Neighbor to Neighbor Lets Can Trash

We all live downstream. This means that the quality of water available to us is determined by our upstream neighbors. When it comes to water pollution too many of us are disconnected from the consequences of our actions. Or worse yet, do not think of the consequences at all. Water pollution does not stay where it occurs. The vast majority of pollution that enters the South River is carried by stormwater. It is estimated that more than one-half of the pollution in our nation's waterways comes from stormwater runoff.



Trash barge South River at Jackson Lake

Pollution transported by stormwater is called nonpoint source pollution. It is carried by nature, gathered and transported away from the source where it originally became a contaminant. It's like having someone litter on your doorstep from miles away. You only need to visit one of the most picturesque sites on the South River, Panola Shoals, or look upstream from Jackson Lake after a rain storm to see this firsthand.

Educating ourselves to have the knowledge of the consequence that may result from our actions will hopefully change the way we act. The previous owners of this litter - countless numbers of plastic bottles, aluminum cans, sport balls of every variety, Styrofoam cups, and much more - seemingly have lost their connection to their downstream neighbors. Rekindle your connection. Educate yourself and others. It is vital that we serve as environmental stewards of our watersheds, protecting the quality of water for those who live downstream. And remember, everyone lives downstream.



Trash and debris Panola Shoals

## Upcoming Events

### **South River Canoe Outing, Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

Don't miss our final outing of 2014. 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. Contact Jackie (404) 285-3756 if

you have questions. Kayakers are welcome and should contact Jackie for additional information. **Wait list only for canoes.**

**South River Jamboree, Serenade By the River, October 4, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. \$40/person.** The venue for this event has changed to Vaughters Farm, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance headquarters, 3350 Klondike Road, Lithonia, GA. [Purchase tickets.](#)

**Rivers Alive Cleanup, Newton County section of South River, October 11, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** For additional details and to volunteer email [southerwaterwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southerwaterwatershedalliance@gmail.com).

**Hands on Atlanta Day, Everett Property Roadside Beautification and Cleanup, October 18, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Lend a hand and join SRWA and Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance to spruce up the Everett Property. To volunteer email [southerwaterwatershedalliance@gmail.com](mailto:southerwaterwatershedalliance@gmail.com).

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

**Monastery Fall Festival and Health Fair, Oct. 4, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Come celebrate the fall season at the beautiful Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Ga. with a full day of activities for the entire family. Enjoy a kid-friendly day of festivities such as hay rides, petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, wildlife animals, arts and crafts and entertainment. Free.

### **Range Ramble Guided Hikes, October 10, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Davidson-Arabia Nature Center.**

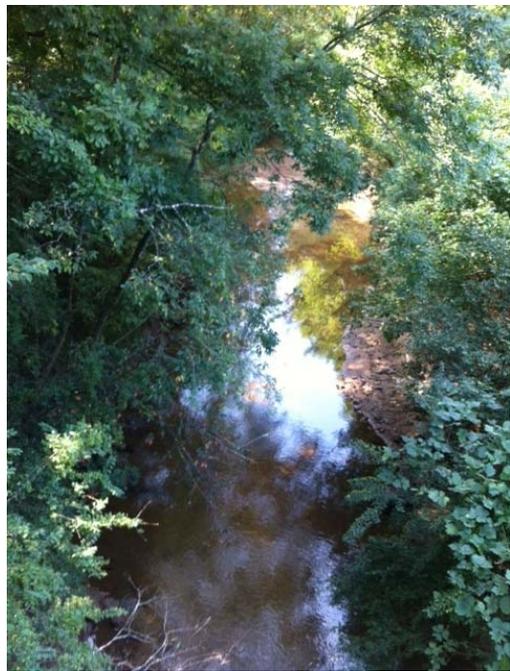
Experience the outdoors with Ranger Robby as he visits some of his favorite spots in the Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. This weekly hike is always different based on the season and interests of the hikers. Join us and you'll be sure to see new vistas and learn about what makes this lunar landscape like nowhere else on earth. This weekly hike is easy to moderate and a perfect way to explore the Preserve the first time. Free.

For more information and additional events visit [www.arabiamountain.org](http://www.arabiamountain.org).

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## **Cobbs Creek**

Cobbs Creek begins at Avondale Lake in the City of Avondale Estates, just south of Wiltshire Drive (starting coordinates: 33.765540°, -84.263448°). The creek travels south, crossing I-20 and I-285. It intersects Shoal Creek just north of Flat Shoals Parkway (GA 155) and Boring Road (ending coordinates: 33.687293°, -84.250382°). Its length is approximately seven miles from headwaters to Shoal Creek which flows into the South River. Land use along Cobbs Creek is almost exclusively residential. There are a total of three parks that Cobbs Creek flows through Bress Walker Park, Midway Park, and Meadowdale Park. Several tributaries join it before the creek ends in Shoal Creek, the largest of which is Fowler Branch. The creek's designated use is considered by Georgia



Cobbs Creek looking downstream from Flat Shoals Road

Environmental Protection Division to be fishing. The creek is impaired for fecal coliform and impacted biota (fish) likely caused by urban runoff.

## Repeats & Reminders

### DeKalb County BoC

Lee May, Interim DeKalb County CEO  
404-371-2881

[Email](#)

District 1 - Vacant

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](#)

### Rivercane Project Begins this Fall

SRWA is inviting school groups and clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, faith-based groups, corporate and agency volunteers, and of course individuals to participate in the South River Rivercane Reintroduction Project.

Work to improve rivercane habitat by removing invasive privet will begin at Panola Mountain State Park in late November and continue through spring 2015. If you or your group would like to volunteer contact one of our project partners Panola Mountain State Park at 770-389-7801 or Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance at 404-998-8384. Visit SRWA's online Events calendar at [www.southernriverga.org](http://www.southernriverga.org) for work dates.

Kathie Gannon, District 6  
404-371-4909

[Email](#)

Stan Watson, District 7  
404-371-3681

[Email](#)

This project is a great opportunity for individuals of all ages to take an active part in the restoration of the South River. This project is made possible by funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Georgia Power, and local partners.



Albert Shoals



Rivercane