



AUGUST 2012

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## Upcoming Events

- September 8, 2012 - Unveiling the Hidden Gems of Metro Atlanta: South River (event and registration details below)
  - September 15, 2012 - Unveiling the Hidden Gems of Metro Atlanta: Yellow River (event and registration details below)
  - October 13, 2012 - Planning Workshop for Water Trail Designation
  - October 20, 2012 - “Nothing But Tires” South River Tire Round Up
  - November 3 & 17, 2012 - South River “River Walk”
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## Planning Notes for July 21 Canoe Outing

by Jackie Echols

Weeks of no rain raised the concern that the July 21 canoe outing would have to be cancelled because there is too little water in the river to float the canoes. Too little water quickly gave way to concerns of too much water as a result of almost daily strong afternoon thunderstorms now into their second week. South River carries a lot of stormwater during heavy rains, rising quickly, and then peaking, with a gradual steady decline. A heavy thunderstorm the night before would mean cancelling our scheduled Saturday trip. At 6:00 a.m., on the morning of the outing I was online studying the weather as was Bruce, our guide, who was also

checking the flow gauge at Klondike Road to determine how much water was in the river at our Klondike takeout site. I had alerted everyone the day before to expect a call from me beginning at 7:00 a.m., if the outing was cancelled. Bruce and I compared notes. Though it had rained the night



before indications are it was not enough to cause the river's level to rise, it was steadily declining, and the morning forecast did not call for rain. We decided at 6:45 a.m., that the outing was a go.

I arrived at the river at 8:00 a.m., after making final arrangements for lunch at the end of the trip. A leisurely lunch is the perfect ending to an outing as there is time to reflect, compare notes, and revel in camaraderie. The river was the color of Georgia red clay due to runoff from construction sites upstream but the rain had added much needed water to the river. When the river is too low maneuvering around sandbars can be a challenge. South River runs shallow between Panola Shoals and the Snapfinger Wastewater Treatment facility and the volume increases below this point. By 8:45 a.m., everyone had arrived, 22 enthusiastic canoeists and 2 kayakers. After a number of housekeeping requirements—life jacket safety check, basic canoeing instruction, canoe pairing, and words from well-wishers—particularly Mera Cardenas, Executive Director, [Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance](#), our sponsor, we were off. It is 10:00 a.m.

## South River, Beginning to End

Where does South River begin and end?

South River emerges from its concrete confines into daylight near East Point, GA, though this is not where it actually begins. The river likely originates further upstream near Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport where many years ago it was piped and buried underground. From East Point, South River flows in a southeastwardly direction. Along the way some sections are piped, others are free-flowing and daylighted. The river travels under I-75/85 near



Cleveland Avenue in a culvert and is once again daylighted as it reaches Browns Mill Golf Course on Atlanta's eastside. From here the river continues its journey southeast disappearing into the tangle of stormwater pipes under the Georgia state capitol complex.

The river re-emerges near Moreland Avenue in DeKalb County and remains daylighted as it passes along the border of Rockdale and DeKalb Counties before officially ending its approximately 65 mile journey in Jackson Lake Reservoir, located within parts of three southeast Georgia counties (Jasper, Newton, and Butts). Since water really never ends, South River's watery trek actually continues all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. The river becomes part of the Ocmulgee River at the outflow of the Jackson Lake Reservoir. Further south the Ocmulgee flows into the Altamaha River which flows into the Atlantic Ocean near Darian, 50 miles below Savannah, on the Georgia coast.

## Support South River's Revival

South River's story is one of endurance and resilience. The goal of SRWA is to add revival to South River's story. Consider that this is the first time and SRWA is the first and only organization to recognize the importance and potential of South River and mount an organized effort to restore DeKalb County's most valuable natural resource.

Each gift to SRWA will help to fund [Beyond the Bridge](#) canoe outings, water quality monitoring and testing, work towards achieving water trail designation for South River, an environmental education partnership with Arabia Mountain High School, operational costs and other projects.

Join us in our commitment to South River and make a generous donation. Thank you in advance for your support. Make donations [online](#) or mail to: SRWA, PO Box 1341, Decatur, GA 30031.

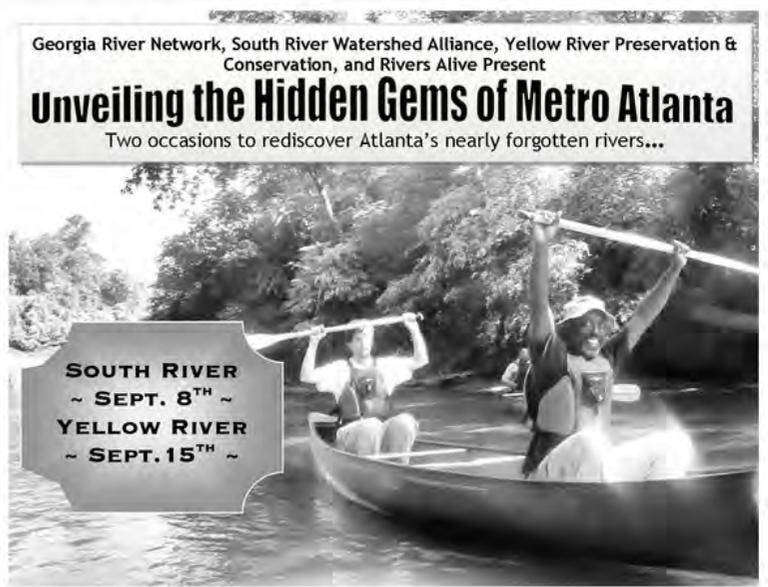
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## Event Details

September 8 and 15 -  
Unveiling the Hidden  
Gems of Metro Atlanta:  
South River and Yellow  
River

South River Watershed  
Alliance, Georgia River  
Network, Yellow River  
Conservation and  
Preservation, and Rivers  
Alive will CELEBRATE  
South River on Saturday,  
September 8th and  
Yellow River on Saturday,  
September 15th.

Activities will include a  
river canoe outing,  
training on how to  
organize your own river  
clean up, natural history  
discussion led by a  
naturalist from the  
Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources, and  
cultural enrichment  
dialogue with the co-  
founder of Flat Rock  
Archive.



**2 Rivers with 2 Eye-opening Opportunities**

Each event includes a choice of:

**River Cleanup Training**  
Learn how to organize your own community river clean-up while paddling these majestic rivers!

OR

**Natural History Float**  
Get to know the awe-inspiring wildlife that has made its home on the river, learn about water quality monitoring, and hear a local historian's fascinating stories about the River's past.

**When:** South River, Sept 8<sup>th</sup> 9am - 2pm  
Yellow River, Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 9am - 2pm

**Where to Meet:**  
**South River:** Panola Shoals, Panola Rd. Ellenwood, GA  
**Yellow River:** Porterdale Yak Club, 5 Main St. Porterdale, GA

**Cost:**  
\$35 - Lunch, ACA Insurance, & Boat Rental  
\$15 - Lunch, ACA Insurance, & Provide your Own Boat

**~Register Online NOW! ~**  
**www.garivers.org**

**GEORGIA RIVER NETWORK**  
126 South Millidge Avenue - Suite E3  
Athens, Georgia 30605  
www.garivers.org

Plan to join us for fun-filled and educational activities to spotlight the potential of South River and Yellow River and raise awareness and community support for metro Atlanta's hidden gems. Register [online](http://www.garivers.org) now!

October 13 - Planning Workshop for Water Trail Designation

Georgia River Network will hold its 4th annual planning workshop for river groups interested in achieving water trail designation for their river on October 13th. This year, SRWA and Yellow River Conservation and Preservation will join other river organizations that are working towards or have achieved this goal. The Yellow River folks have offered to host the workshop in the city of Porterdale

(near Covington) on the waterfront. Additional meeting details forthcoming.

## October 20 - “Nothing But Tires” South River Tire Round Up

The title speaks for itself. There are many tires in South River and we need your help to remove this major source of blight. Like most of the restoration projects SRWA is undertaking in support of South River, the removal of tires will take time. But in order to finish the task we must first get started. Mark your calendar and make plans to volunteer. Additional details to follow.

## November 3 and 17 - South River “River Walk”

Have you ever wondered what's around the next bend and would you like to visit the river's headwaters? SRWA's “River Walk” project is another opportunity to build community awareness and support for South River. Fall is a great time to experience the river on foot. Mark your calendar and watch for SRWA's newsletter for more details.

