



SEPTEMBER 2012

Upcoming Events

Further details for each event below.

- September 15 - Unveiling the Hidden Gems of Metro Atlanta: Yellow River
 - September 22 - South River Clean up at Moreland Avenue
 - October 13 - Planning Workshop for Water Trail Designation
 - October 27 - "Nothing But Tires" South River Tire Round up (date change)
 - November 3 - South River "River Walk"
 - November 17 - South River "River Walk"
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The value of a question, good friends, and a map

The email read, "Are you sure South River flows under the state capitol

complex"? The question came from a good friend who had just read "South River from Beginning to End" in SRWA's August 2012 newsletter. After checking Google Maps my friend did not see how this was possible. "The state complex is too far north".

My information about the river's route had come from a very reliable source familiar with South River. Nonetheless, the question sent me checking further. I needed a good quality map of the South River watershed in the city of Atlanta which to this point had proven difficult to locate. Quite by accident, I learned through another good friend that the City of Atlanta, Office of Watershed Protection had developed a South River Watershed Improvement Plan. If there was a plan, I was certain there would be a map and there was.

It is important to remember that the water in South River or any river comes from creeks and streams along its path. Without water from these sources particularly major creeks there would not be a South River. Many of you reading this newsletter are familiar with Intrenchment Creek and know that it is a major tributary of South River. What you may not know is that Intrenchment Creek originates in the City of Atlanta and the Intrenchment Creek watershed extends into the southwest section of downtown Atlanta and includes the state capitol complex. Though Intrenchment Creek originates in Atlanta, it does not flow into South River until after the river crosses into DeKalb County.

So here is the answer to my friend's question: South River in the City of Atlanta does not flow under the state capitol complex. However, South River in DeKalb County does.

Sincere thanks to the City of Atlanta, Office of Watershed Protection for their help with this question.

SRWA launches "Map South River" fundraising campaign

SRWA is launching "Map South River" a community-wide campaign to raise \$5,000 to create a map of the South River watershed from its headwaters in Atlanta to its end at Jackson Lake.

The most useful tool for raising awareness and educating the community about South River is a detailed map. Over the past two years, SRWA has participated in a variety of events and meetings throughout south DeKalb County. Without exception, the single most requested item is a map that shows the entire South River watershed.

Once completed the map will become the focal point of an educational brochure SRWA is developing.

The "Map South River" campaign will run from now until the end of the year or

until the funds are raised. Please consider making a generous contribution in support of this worthwhile effort. You may contribute online at www.southernriverga.org or via mail, P.O. Box 1341, Decatur, GA 30031. Don't forget to write "Map South River" on the memo line of your check. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Jackson Lake Homeowners Association (JHLA) donates \$250 to SRWA

With every donation and partnership, the future of South River gets brighter and healthier. Restoring and protecting South River is a huge undertaking, much more than any one organization can successfully accomplish alone. Victory depends on the collective energy, voices, and actions of volunteers, advocates, and supporters up and down the river working together for a common goal. South River "officially" ends in Jackson Lake making [JLHA](#) the river's southernmost anchor. This partnership provides an opportunity to open the dialogue about JLHA concerns and how SRWA can help because we are all downstream neighbors.

Signage for South River

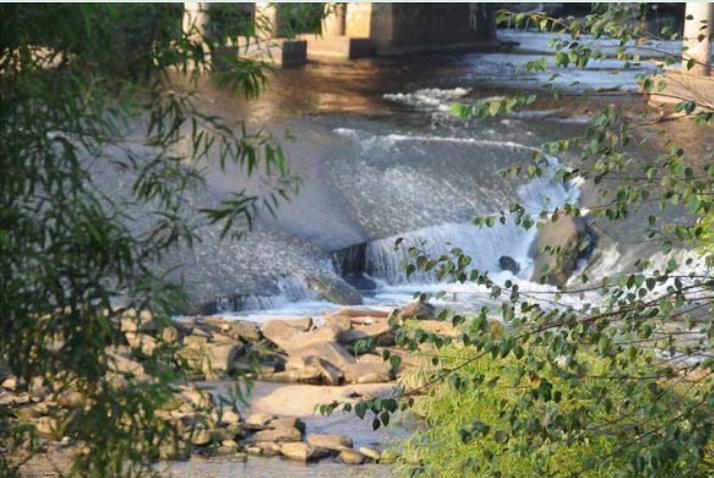


Photo courtesy of Kenneth Doyle

In the very near future, all nine South River road/bridge crossings in South DeKalb County will have a sign that identifies South River by name. Why is this important you may ask?

Names convey meaning and value and tell a lot about the subject. Just as your name is important because it identifies who you are, the same is the case for

South River. People have the capacity to identify themselves when meeting other people and until they know your name you don't exist. **Signage for South River is a way of identifying the river to everyone who passes over it. Without being able to identify the river as South River it is just another random body of water. The river exists because you know its name.**

Additionally, signage draws attention to the river. People are more likely to act to restore and protect that which they can call or recognize by name. Name

recognition provided by signage triggers recall and provides a point of reference for the community as awareness and support for the river builds.

SRWA identified the road/bridge crossings and DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management will make and install the signs. As a result of this collaborative effort, distinguishing South River from other creek and stream crossings in south DeKalb County is about to become much easier.

Arabia Mountain High School-SRWA partnership

Through an educational partnership with Arabia Mountain High School (AMHS), SRWA will serve as a conduit to the environment and provide hands-on learning opportunities for 9th grade students at south DeKalb's premier environmental high school. Students at AMHS study water during their freshmen year. SRWA's plan was approved by school administration during the summer break and outlined its plan to parents, teachers, and students during the first meeting of the PTSA (Parent Teacher Student Association) on August 21.

South River will become an outdoor classroom and laboratory where students can learn firsthand about how an urban river and watershed function and experience the river as a living and evolving landscape. SRWA will provide access to resources and experienced professionals, who research, monitor, manage, or use laws to protect water bodies throughout the state. Students will learn about South River through outings, water monitoring projects, and expert-led workshops. South River joins an impressive list of community partners including Flat Rock Archives, Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance, Panola Mountain State Park that support full implementation of the [EIC \(Environment as an Integrating Context\)](#) Model at the school.

South River canoe outing on YouTube

On July 21, SRWA held its second South River canoe outing. Listen what some of the participants have to say about the outings and South River. **You can watch the videos [here](#).**

Like SRWA on Facebook

The next time you are on Facebook, please take a moment to go to the [SRWA Facebook page](#) and "Like" it, if you haven't already. Organization pages are only allowed to "Like" other organizations. Organization pages cannot send friend requests. Also, we cannot tag you in posts unless you have liked us.

Facebook is one of the most important promotional tools for SRWA that we

have right now, and we can't expand our reach without your help.

If you are already participating with us on Facebook, we appreciate it! Every "Like," "Share" and "Comment" helps our post rankings and increases our chances of being seen in more News Feeds.

South River 'Unveiling' PHOTOS

A diverse turnout of over 70 people paddled down South River on Saturday, September 8. Before take off, paddlers and curious onlookers enjoyed an exhibit of native fish caught in South River (that morning) by the [North American Native Fishes Association](#) and during the trip, paddlers learned more about the South River and its watershed from naturalist Phil



Photo courtesy of Kenneth Doyle

DeLestrez. A hearty and sincere thanks to [Georgia River Network](#) and the many others who helped make this event a resounding success.

To see the photos, click [here](#) or on the picture above. Enjoy and share!

Event Details

September 22 - South River Clean up at Moreland

The Atlanta Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are sponsoring a South River clean up at Moreland Avenue, Saturday, Sept. 22, 9:00 am - 12:00 noon. Volunteers will meet at the Moreland Avenue bridge over South River.

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 13. The exact meeting time is yet to be determined but if you are interested in helping with this effort contact Jackie Echols at 404-285-3756 or southernriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com for more information. [Yellow River Conservation and Preservation](#) will host the workshop in the city of Porterdale (near Covington) on the waterfront.

October 27 - South River Tire Roundup (date change)

The South River Tire Roundup originally scheduled October 20 has been moved to October 27, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Mark the new date on your calendar and plan to help rid South River of its most widespread eyesore - spent tires. DeKalb County Department of Watershed Management will be on hand to help with moving tires from the river and riverbank to a pick up site. Tire recycling will be provided by Liberty Tire Company.

November 3 and 17 - South River "River Walks"

Join SRWA for river walks that will explore sections of South River as it flows through the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. Have you ever wondered what is around the next bend, or what's beyond as far as the eyes can see, or would you like to visit the river's headwaters then plan to participate in SRWA's river walks coming in November. Fall is a great time to experience the river on foot. Mark your calendar and watch for more details in upcoming SRWA newsletters and emails.

