

The following foundations, organizations, individuals, and corporations made our 2004 accomplishments possible.

Grant Makers and Foundations

American Rivers · Newland Family Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
Environmental Support Center
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation · River Network
Sapelo Foundation · Turner Foundation

River Heroes (\$1000 or greater)

Alan and Naomi Epstein · John Train · REM

River Guardians (\$500 or greater)

Lacy Camp and Martha Middlebrooks
Richard and Jennie DeScherer · Stephen and Lucy Draper
Theresa Perenich

River Supporters (\$250 or greater)

Bron and Jackie Cleveland
Laurie Fowler and Tim Johnson · William Tietjen

River Friends (\$100 or greater)

Suzi Wilkins Berl · Dan and Sally Coenen
Robert Cowan · Brad Currey Jr. · Violet Dawe
Sue Eggert · Bud and Mary Freeman
John and Edna Garst · Alice and Tim Keyes
Stephen Kraemer · Roy and Patty Lowe · Judy Meyer
Michael Moody · Dubose Porter · Brenda Rashleigh
Edward and Jeannette Roberts · Kes Roberts
Robert Sutherland · Gloria Taylor · Hoke Thomas, Jr.
Bruce and Vickie Williamson

Organizations and Corporations

Atlanta Womens Club · Bellsouth Matching Gifts
Broad River Watershed Association
Canoochee Riverkeeper · Chattahoochee Riverkeeper
Chattawah Open Land Trust · Cingular Matching Gifts
Environmental Services Inc. · Friends of the Ogeechee
Georgia Conservancy · Georgia Water Coalition
Soque River Watershed Association
Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Georgia River Network Working Together For Healthy Rivers

Today, many forces threaten or negatively impact Georgia's rivers. The most critical issues affecting Georgia's rivers include increased demand for water, point source pollution, and non-point source pollution.

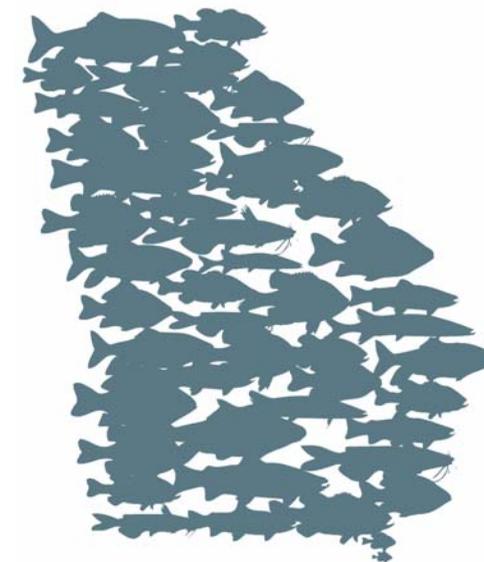
Georgia River Network is essential to addressing the problems and threats to our rivers. We are the only statewide non-profit environmental organization solely dedicated to the conservation of Georgia's waters. We envision rivers we can all use for drinking, swimming, fishing, and boating; rivers that add beauty and value to our communities; and meet the needs of the ecosystems they support. Achieving our vision is dependent on active, effective, citizen-led watershed groups working in watersheds across Georgia. Citizen-led watershed groups are the best option to address issues threatening Georgia's rivers, because threats to rivers are diverse and localized, and local people are best suited to identify and implement solutions that will work in their watershed. However, in many of the state's watersheds, citizens are not engaged and organized to advocate for their river. Furthermore, organized watershed groups must be empowered with skills, information, tools, and resources to effectively address issues impacting their watershed.

Our strategy is to **ENGAGE, EMPOWER, and ADVOCATE**. We help citizens:

- Organize to protect and restore their river,
- Build their capacity to protect and restore their river, and
- Develop their understanding and engagement in key policy issues impacting their river.

Georgia River Network
126 S. Milledge Ave., Suite E3
Athens, GA 30605
706-549-4508
706-549-7791
info@garivers.org
www.garivers.org

Georgia River Network



Working Together For Healthy Rivers

2004 Annual Report

Engage

Georgia River Network helps citizens organize to protect and restore their river.

We create awareness and encourage citizen involvement in existing watershed efforts or the creation of new watershed efforts

- Provided an updated version of our “Directory of Watershed Groups” in print and on our website.
- Created “Paddle Georgia”, an annual canoeing event designed to connect citizens to rivers through a week-long canoe camping adventure.
- Created an annual awards program, “River Celebration Awards”, to recognize a Conservationist of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Watershed Group of the Year.
- Became an official partner of the Garden Club of Georgia's Flow (Forging Leadership in Our Watersheds) program and gave presentations at workshops across the state.
- Coordinated a river quilt tour across Georgia, which showcased handmade quilts with river conservation themes.
- Partnered on a local Rivers Alive event, gave presentations at a number of events, conferences, and meetings, and contributed to partners’ newsletters.

We serve as the first contact for citizens seeking help to protect and restore the streams and rivers within their communities.

- Responded to requests for information, tools, and resources on a daily basis.

We assist citizens with organizing new watershed groups and foster development of new watershed groups.

- Coordinated the formation of the Ocmulgee River Corridor project, an effort to bring together the people who are interested in seeing a conservation strategy put into place in the Ocmulgee, Oconee, and/or Altamaha river corridors.
- Initiated discussion on the development of a conservation strategy for the Upper Tallapoosa watershed.
- Provided support for the development of an Upper Flint Watershed Alliance in the Upper Flint River Watershed.
- Provided support for the development of a Coosawattee Watershed Alliance in the Coosawattee River Watershed.

Empower

Georgia River Network helps citizens build their capacity to protect and restore their river.

We build the capacity of watershed alliances by providing tools, resources, and information.

- Assisted with planning and delivering workshops on how to conduct a “Rivers Alive” clean up.
- Developed several new capacity building factsheets and articles on topics like advocacy and marketing.
- Created a publication: “How to Report Environmental Incidents in Georgia”.
- Created a template of the “How to Report Environmental Incidents in Georgia” publication for watershed groups to modify and publish for their own use and distribution.

We provide workshops, individualized training and direct assistance to citizens and watershed alliances.

- Coordinated a series of regional workshops to provide advocacy training in 4 locations throughout Georgia, in conjunction with Georgia Conservation Voters.
- Provided training, facilitation and direct assistance to the Broad River Watershed Association, Coosa River Basin Initiative, Georgia Environmental Organization, Soque River Watershed Association, Friends of the Ogeechee, Canoochee Riverkeeper, Altamaha Riverkeeper, Friends of the Apalachee, and the Savannah River Basin Initiative.

We utilize our communications tools to disseminate information to watershed groups

- Provided our website with information on events; training; policy; resources and tools on organizational and technical topics; and a watershed group directory.
- Published 4 issues of our quarterly “Confluence” newsletter.
- Published our “NewsStream” monthly e-newsletter.

We coordinate an annual conference that offers training and networking opportunities.

- Coordinated and organized the 2004 GRN Annual Conference: “Empowering the Network”.
- Planned the 2005 GRN Annual Conference: “The Land-Water Connection”.

Advocate

Georgia River Network helps citizens develop their understanding and engagement in key policy issues impacting their river and serves as a voice for policy issues that transcend Georgia’s watersheds.

We empower watershed alliances to advocate for policy that will benefit their river.

- Distributed action alerts on several bills of importance during key periods of the 2004 Session of the Georgia State Legislature.
- Distributed action alerts on federal policy issues.
- Distributed information on state and federal policy issues via NewsStream.
- Distributed Action Alerts on the Environmental Protection Division/DNR Board’s rule making process for the headwater stream buffer rules (SB 460).

We serve as a voice for policy issues that transcend Georgia’s watersheds.

- Advocated, during the 2004 Session of the Georgia State Legislature, for the creation of a statewide comprehensive water management plan
- Advocated, during the 2004 Session of the Georgia State Legislature, against a number of bills that would have a detrimental affect on Georgia’s rivers.
- Worked to change policy that keeps Georgia non-profits ineligible for section 319 watershed grants.
- Participated in the national River Lobby Day in Washington DC.
- Facilitated small group discussions on stream buffer and wetland policy issues during 3 Georgia Water Coalition meetings to determine policy position and direction for the coalition.
- Submitted written comments, attended hearings, and made verbal comments on the draft headwater stream buffer (SB 460) rules, and DNR’s issuance of the Industrial Stormwater General Permit.
- Assisted with the development of a strategy to protect the Automatic Stay Rule for citizen challenges to new or revised pollution permits.
- Created a report on water policy issues in Georgia.