

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Flint Riverkeeper, Albany, GA
Staff Attorney and Field Operative

The Organization

The mission of the Flint Riverkeeper is to restore and preserve the habitat, water quality and flow of the Flint River for the benefit of current and future generations and dependent wildlife. Founded in 2008, Flint Riverkeeper serves the entire 8,460 square-mile watershed, comprising much of West and South Georgia. Beginning at East Point, near Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson airport, the Flint flows nearly 360 miles to the Georgia/Florida border where it mingles with the Chattahoochee River at Lake Seminole to form the Apalachicola River. The watershed serves a diverse population, numerous industries and over two-million acres of irrigated farmland. Interconnected with the Flint's surface water are the Floridan aquifer, plus several smaller aquifers, dynamic underground systems that not only supply surface water flow, but are also heavily used for residential, agricultural and industrial needs. The Flint watershed is a major recharge area for the Floridan, supplying nearly all of South Georgia, much of Florida, and stretching all the way to southeastern South Carolina, plus offshore in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. Flint Riverkeeper is a dynamic organization that has logged many major and minor policy and legal victories for the watershed and her citizens. The Board is geographically diverse and highly engaged. The staff is an energetic, efficient, happy band hopeful to add to its number with a like-minded and potent new member. Our agenda is strategically-driven, and tactically flexible. We look forward to seeing your application.



Scene along the lower Flint. *Photo credit – Steve “Bankclimber” Golladay*

General Description

- Represents organizational interests in litigation related to water pollution & flow issues
- Develops enforcement cases in conjunction with other Riverkeeper staff, volunteers, and outside counsel, including field sampling, GIS or other mapping, legal research and evaluation, and developing partnerships.
- Works in conjunction with other Riverkeeper staff to promote outreach and awareness to membership and the communities of the Flint on the role and actions of Flint Riverkeeper.
- Works in conjunction with other Riverkeeper staff to develop internal and external natural resource policies, promoting such policies in public, in the Georgia General Assembly, via DNR Board rulemaking, and via key litigation strategies.
- Reports to the Executive Director/Riverkeeper.

Specific Responsibilities

- Implements field patrol, sampling, and case development for pollution complaints and legal cases.
- Reports enforcement issues to appropriate agencies after review by the Riverkeeper, working to avoid legal action at all times, but developing cases as needed.
- Briefs the Riverkeeper and the Board on pollution enforcement and potential legal actions.
- Works with other staff and volunteers to efficiently collect, store, and summarize field data. Produces data products useful not only for enforcement or prosecution, but also for Board briefing and community/press outreach, including issue campaign strategies, communications work plans, and integration of enforcement and legal work to the overall Riverkeeper mission and vision.
- Performs certain independent fundraising & outreach tasks.
- Works in conjunction with the Riverkeeper and key partners on flow issues: policy, legal, outreach.
- Complies with internal Riverkeeper policies and procedures.
- Assists the Director of Outreach and Development with fundraising events and tasks as needed, in coordination with the Riverkeeper, other staff, and the Board.
- Engages in other activities as needed and assigned.

Qualifications & Requirements

- Candidates must have a J.D. degree; admission to the GA State Bar is preferred.
- Experience in field biology, chemistry, water quality, or wildlife; undergraduate degree in one of these fields preferred.
- Experience working on federal Clean Water Act issues and/or instream flow issues preferred.
- Preference may also be given for experience in environmental campaigns and/or policy development.
- Experience operating small boats.
- Valid GA driver's license or clear ability to obtain one (valid license from another state).
- A passion for clean, flowing water.
- Demonstrated writing/composition ability, public speaking ability.
- Experience working in a team environment, experience working remotely using modern electronics from the field, home, and elsewhere.

Additional Information

This position requires significant in-the-watershed travel. The Flint River watershed covers approximately 8,000 square miles, 357 river miles, and thousands of creek and swamp miles. The watershed is approximately 240 road miles long, north to south. Work frequently requires > 40 hours/week including weekend work. The headquarters of Flint Riverkeeper is in Albany, Georgia, and workspace will be provided at that location, but the successful candidate may live anywhere in the Flint River watershed that they choose, with locations near the watershed also possible after consultation with the Riverkeeper/Executive Director. This is a full-time, exempt position.

The starting salary is \$39,000 annually. There are no company-purchased or –administered health benefits, but an additional \$6,000 annually is added in monthly increments to cash compensation via payroll to provide for the ability of the employee to purchase coverage on the open market (\$45,000 total payroll compensation, starting). A comprehensive leave package applies: vacation, sick, bereavement, medical and family, parental/adoption.

The start date is July 2017. For candidates who are scheduled to take the GA Bar exam in July of 2017, an August start date is workable.

Flint Riverkeeper is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against employees or applicants on the basis of race, religion, color, political affiliation, disability, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested persons should submit a cover letter of intent, CV, at least three references, and an example of work product (written plus any other desired), via **EMAIL ONLY**, to: Gordon Rogers, Executive Director and Flint Riverkeeper, gordon@flintriverkeeper.org

Please format all email attachments as pdf documents. No phone calls, please. No surface mail, please. Receipt of your application will be acknowledged via email, and you will be notified of telephone or other interview appointments via email. Please allow at least 48 hours for acknowledgment of receipt of your application.



Flint Riverkeeper staff, L to R, Gordon Rogers, Jayme Smith, Jessica Rutledge
Flint Riverkeeper file photo.