



The Chattooga Quarterly

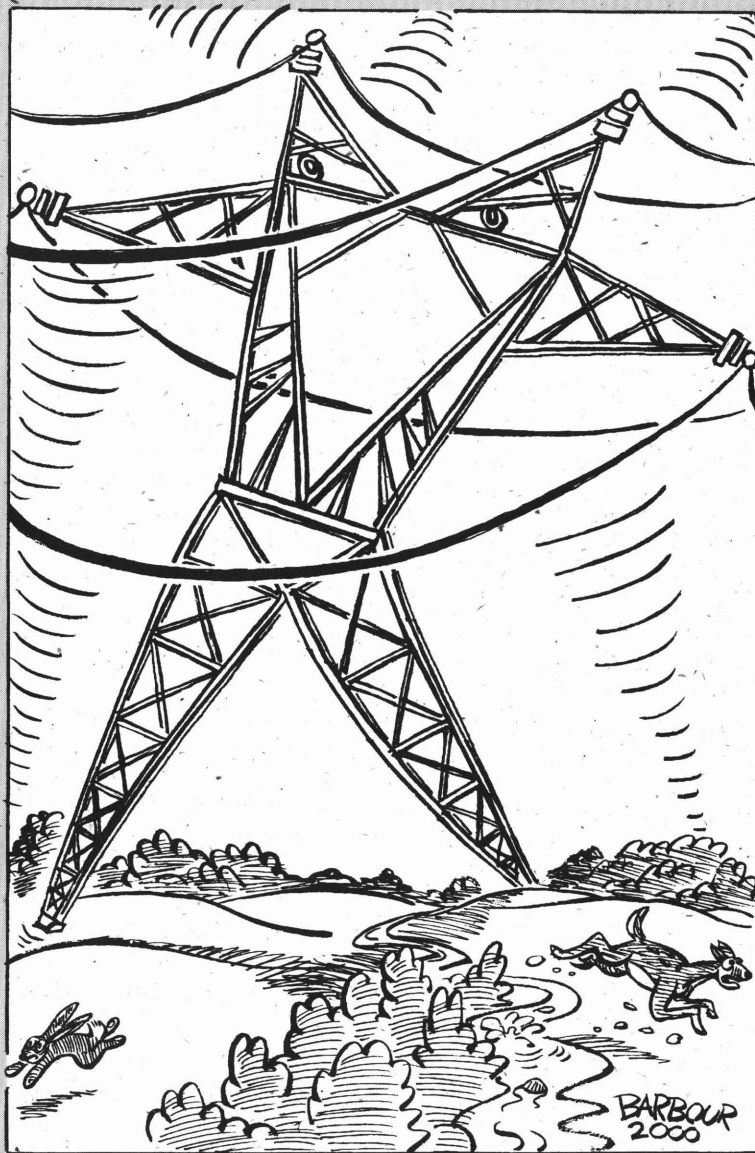
SPRING



2000

\$1

Progress: Need or Greed?



Will the 115 kilovolt monster "transform" Rabun County?

I n s i d e

Director's Page.....2

Vanished Birds.....3

Ecology of the White Oak.....7

Rabun County Power line Controversy..9

Watershed Update.....12

Member's Page.....14

Director's Page

This Quarterly I am vacating my Director's page so we may print the body of a letter written by our Board member, Dr. Robert Zahner. He originally wrote the letter to the Jackson Macon Conservation Alliance, a new organization to which the Chattooga Conservancy belongs. This letter was intended to give us direction as we were writing the organization's goals. The subject concerns the much abused idea of so-called "sustainable development." The Alliance's member organizations are concerned with development in Jackson and Macon counties in North Carolina, primarily the Highlands-Cashiers plateau, which is also the headwaters of the Chattooga, Cullasaja, Tuckasegee, French Broad Rivers, as well as the rivers of the Jocassee Gorges. Since this letter was so instrumental in guiding our thinking on this important subject, we decided to share it here. I think all will agree that Dr. Zahner's land ethic is based on nothing less than profound wisdom.

It is unfortunate that two relatively innocuous words, "growth" and "development," have come to be synonymous with urban sprawl, in particular, the undesirable transformation of scenic rural country sides into commercial and residential landscapes.

Both words have very positive meanings, like "spiritual growth" and "cultural development," but we don't hear much debate on those attributes. Contemporary debate on urban sprawl has led politicians and economists to adjectives like "sustainable" and "smart" to ameliorate the negative connotations of growth and development. We must be careful not to be deluded by this smokescreen.

"Sustainable" is a politically correct buzzword these days, although most people who use it don't understand the true meaning. *Sustain* means "to keep in existence; to provide for sustenance or nourishment," the implication being *forever*. Sustainable is a great adjective, but should be used to describe a noun that can be sustained.

"Sustainable growth," for example, is a favorite feel-good term used frequently today by the pro growth lobby. But this term is a contradiction of words, an oxymoron, as nothing can grow forever, certainly not in a finite environment. It is used interchangeably with the term "smart growth," another feel-good political term used by the building and housing industries to justify urban sprawl. Both terms—sustainable growth and smart growth—have caught on in urban areas across the country because they

seem to justify land development, implying that destruction of natural landscapes is desirable for the economy and utility of local citizens as long as it is "planned." We must remember that growth is neither sustainable nor smart. Growth is the strategy of the cancer cell.

National conservation organizations have exposed many examples of blatant sprawl hiding behind the façade of "smart growth." Please, let's stay away from that one. I view the Highlands Cove project as an example of what the construction industry calls "smart growth!" [Dr. Zahner is referring to a new golf course and residential development in the Highlands, North Carolina area, where the majority

of the terrain is in excess of a 60% slope. Naturally, ground-moving activities here have wreaked havoc on the native landscape, and a stream coursing through the property has been choked with mud. Local property owners sued the developers, who were found guilty of blatant violations of North Carolina erosion and sedimentation laws.]

So where does this lead us? Is the term "sustainable development" any better? Can *development* be sustained forever? Perhaps it can, if we avoid using the

**"Sustainable growth"
is a contradiction
of words, an oxymoron,
as nothing can grow
forever, certainly not
in a finite environment.**

term in its "growth" meaning, that is, avoid using development to imply proliferation and enlargement. Development can mean improvement, strengthening, maturation and augmentation, all of which can be sustained indefinitely without adding new physical growth.

Thus, "sustainable development" must be limited to the concept of improving infrastructure, and strengthening cultural, educational, spiritual, and aesthetic opportunities for our communities. Of course, you can argue that these things also represent the desirable side of "growth," but that's not what the commercial developers and homebuilders' lobby have as a goal for their sprawl.

So, the lesson in this essay is to understand the various meanings of "growth" and "development," and to be careful when modifying either of these words with an adjective like "sustainable."

Sincerely,

Bob Zahner

Passenger Pigeon & Carolina Parakeet *Vanished Birds*

Buzz Williams

Recently I visited the Capitol building in Atlanta and was struck by a display memorializing two extinct birds that were indigenous to the Chattooga River watershed: the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Parakeet. Along with paintings of the birds were brief biographies containing an explanation of their demise, which was linked to habitat destruction and market hunting. Of particular note was the mention of the cutting of the "Great White Oak Forest" as a principle reason for the loss of the Passenger Pigeon.

I had always known about these beautiful birds, and this display made me curious about more details. Subsequently, I discovered an incredible source for finding out more about these interesting, extinct birds that once were a part of our landscape. The following is a brief account of their life history, which I learned mostly from a fascinating book entitled Hope Is The Thing With Feathers, by Christopher Cokinos.

Conuropsis carolinensis, the Carolina Parakeet, was indeed a beautiful bird. William Strachey was an early naturalist in the Southeastern wilds of North America and described the parakeet as “a fowle most swift of wing, their wings and breast are a greenish colour with forked tayles, their heads some crimson, some yellow, some oránge towny, very beautiful...”. A German immigrant to Missouri, in his writings of 1877, likened the winter sighting of a flock of several hundred Carolina Parakeets in a Sycamore tree to the nostalgic image of a Christmas tree,

with their yellow heads shining like candles. But it was this same color and brilliance that made the flocks of parakeets almost invisible in lush green foliage of its preferred habitat of deciduous timbered streams, swamps and cane breaks of the eastern United States.

The Carolina Parakeet was relatively common from New York to the deep South, and even ranged as far west as Colorado. It did not migrate, and exhibited an incredible

range of food sources. The Carolina Parakeet, with its thick powerful beak, was primarily a seed-eater including those of pine, maple, elm and cypress. It also consumed mulberries, paw-paw, wild grapes and leaf buds, but the cocklebur was by far its favorite. They were also very dependent on salt, and were often seen in natural salt deposits such as at Big Bone Lick in Kentucky. Early explorers also noticed their tolerance of extreme weather conditions. The bird's wide variety of food sources and its hardiness account for its non-migrating lifestyle.

The Carolina Parakeet is thought to have nested in hollow trees. Often they nested in large groups inside the trees, where some were even forced to cling to the outside of the opening, hanging to the tree with their feet and beaks as they slept.

There are many mysteries about the reproductive cycle of

the Carolina Parakeet, presumably due to both its complexity and the fact that much of it was concealed in a tree hollow. We do know that they nested in colonies and that their eggs were plain white. But whether they nested in summer or spring, the exact number of eggs laid, their



*The Carolina Parakeet was the only parrot of eastern North America;
the last Carolina Parakeet was taken in 1904.*

painting by John James Audubon

Passenger Pigeon & Carolina Parakeet

The Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*, like its scientific epithet was a migratory species. It did so in such huge numbers that as early as the 1500's, explorers were amazed by the size of the flocks. They were described as blocking or eclipsing the sun, and as funnel clouds or squall lines. Passenger Pigeons flocked in thick clouds, and sometimes flew in layers or in a single dense sheet; they were likened to moving rivers.

Audubon described a huge flock that took two days to pass. "The dung fell in spots not unlike melting flakes of snow," he said. It is estimated by some authorities that the Passenger Pigeon made up 20 to 40% of the total populations of the United States, with an estimated population of 3 to 5 billion—easily the largest species population on Earth at the time of their existence.

The Passenger Pigeons were as beautiful individually as they were awesome *en masse*. Their heads, back and wings were blue-gray, with their necks shimmering an iridescent purple, gold, yellow and green. They had powerful chests showing white down to their bellies, with black bills, long tails and quick stabbing wings that could propel them up to 60 miles per hour. Their legs, feet, and eyes were a piercing red.

The preferred food of the Passenger Pigeon was oak acorns, chestnuts and especially beechnuts. Since most of these preferred foods are cyclic, it is believed that their aerial searches enabled them to find which forests were more heavily laden with acorns or nuts, thus accounting for their swarming, wandering "migratory flight patterns."

Passenger Pigeons migrated north for the April through June breeding season. This early arrival also insured the birds' first dibs on feed after the snow melt. Their breeding

was highly synchronized with exact time lines for courtship, nest building, egg laying, incubation, hatching, feeding and abandonment of chicks.

They formed huge nesting colonies, averaging 311 square miles. One colony observed in 1871 in Wisconsin was scattered over 850 square miles, and probably consisted of nearly all the Passenger Pigeons in the United States. It was estimated that there were almost 135 million birds in this one colony.

Their breeding season began with the courtship rituals of billing and necking, and rushing together as if almost "hugging" each other. This display lasted for three days. Nest building followed, again for three days, with a loosely built nest made of twigs. Typically, the male brought in a twig and perched on the female's back, where he transferred the twig to her bill. Then, all on the same day, she laid a single white egg which took thirteen days to incubate. Males relieved females on the nest from about 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. The males nested separately from the nesting colony.

Young pigeons, or "squabs," were born naked and blind. They ate a substance produced by the

females called "pigeon milk," which was white in color and fed to them through the beak. The squabs soon developed yellow down and opened their eyes. In late summer the parent birds would feed the squabs for a final time, and then abandon the squalling squabs to fly south.

For the next three days the young birds would fall to the ground, learning to fly. Soon they joined the flocks of pigeons flying south. These colonies, both nesting and roosting, attracted large numbers of predators such as wolves, bobcats, foxes and other carnivores, which came to

Grand Pigeon Match,



At the Golden Lion Inn, Yonge-Street.

A Grand Pigeon SHOOTING MATCH

Will take place at *Sheppard's Inn*, as above, on **WEDNESDAY, 26th of SEPTEMBER, instant.** Upwards of Three Hundred Pigeons are provided for the occasion, and it is purposed to give Three Prizes as follows:

For the Best Shot, a Prize of £10—Second best do. £5.—Third do. do.—a Good Rifle!!!

Shooting to commence at 11 o'Clock, before which Hour the Gentlemen wishing to participate in the Sport, will be required to enter their names, and to comply with such Regulations for the government of the Sport, as may be arranged amongst themselves after their arrival.

Dinner will be on the Table at 4 o'Clock.

YORK, 16th Sept. 1833.

[G. P. Bull, Printer, "Courier" Office, Market-House, York.]

During the 18th and 19th century, humans killed incredible numbers of Passenger Pigeons for sport and for food.

Passenger Pigeon & Carolina Parakeet

prey on the young squabs and adults. Scientists believe that the genetic survival strategy of the Passenger Pigeon against both predation and competition was their sheer numbers.

Nonetheless, humanity made the exception to this rule. During the 18th and 19th century, humans killed incredible numbers of Passenger Pigeons for sport and for food. In 1825, one individual was reported to have shot 500 birds in 528 minutes. A cruel practice was sometimes employed where birds were purposefully injured, causing them to fly more "springily" before contestants in trap-shooting contests. One trap-shooter estimated killing 30,000 birds in his lifetime.

Astronomical numbers of birds were sold in the markets of large northern cities. New technology such as the telegraph and railroads aided the growing market-hunting trade. Passenger Pigeons dressed and packed on ice in barrels, at the rate of 25 to 35 dozen per barrel, could be shipped from New York to Chicago in 48 hours. The birds were sold for 50 cents per dozen, or 12 cents for a pound of feathers, with approximately

50 pigeons producing a pound of feathers. They were sold door to door in carts or in the market, either broiled, roasted, pickled, smoked or salted. Sometimes the birds were stuffed with charcoal as a preservative. Squabs were marketed as a delicacy.

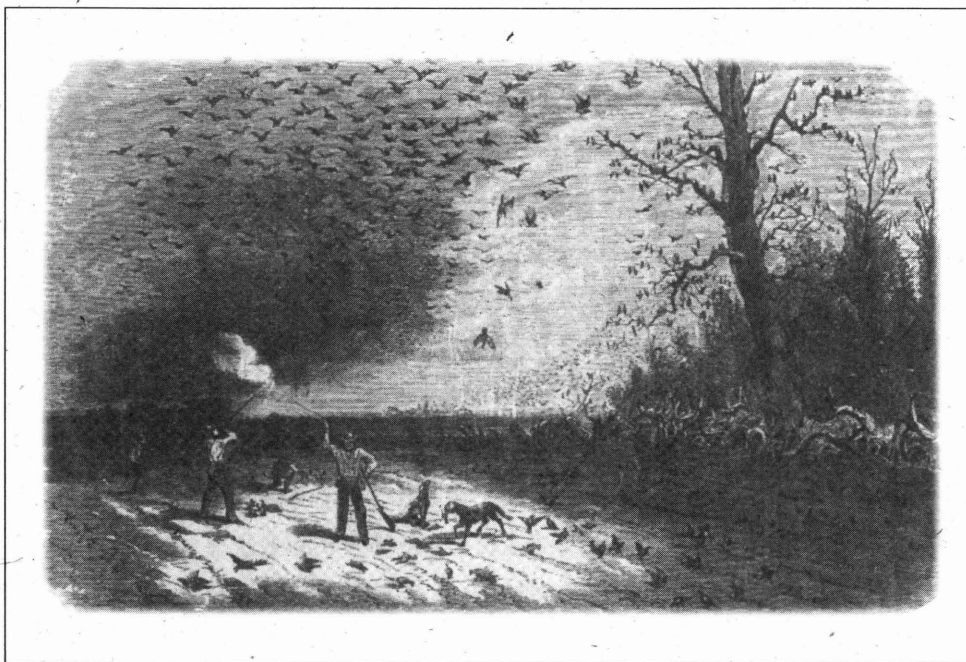
Market-hunting was a huge business. The hunters used an amazing array of techniques to bring down the birds when massed in flocks. They netted, shot and swatted the birds with long hickory poles; they even used whips. Passenger Pigeon flocks were so thick that hunters often killed 20 to 30 birds per shot. They burned sulfur pots to fumigate roosting pigeons, and poked down nests with poles to get the squabs. In one instance, 1,500 acres of trees were cut down to get to the helpless young birds. Sometimes there were as many as 100 nests per tree. Unbelievably, hunters sometimes even used fireworks to bring down pigeons. The

killing frenzy was once described as "a wild pandemonium for a saturnalia of slaughter."

In 1878, one of the last great flocks of Passenger Pigeons nested in Michigan. By then some activists were lobbying for laws to limit hunting and to stop nest raiding. The market hunters countered by arguing that the protesters did not care about the poor. Some scholars believe that as many as 10 million birds were harvested in that single nesting kill. In 1886, only two flocks of Passenger Pigeons were left in Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. By 1897, when Michigan finally passed a law banning the killing of Passenger Pigeons, it was already too late. Passenger Pigeons had depended on large numbers to locate food and to thrive, but by now their numbers had fallen precipitously. Habitat had

been destroyed and nesting patterns disturbed. At the turn of the century, a young boy shot a lone bird in a tree in Pike County, Ohio; it was the last Passenger Pigeon known to have been shot in the wild.

It is interesting to note that the decline of the Carolina Parakeet as well as the Passenger Pigeon coincided with



"Shooting Wild Pigeons in Iowa," from the *Illustrated Newspaper*, September 1867.

the cutting of the "Great Forest" of the eastern United States. Agricultural and forest products industries argued then, as now, that land clearing and development practices were for the good of people. Yet in the case of the Passenger Pigeon, the marketers destroyed the very thing that was their livelihood.

As I walked around the corner that day in the Capitol building, leaving the display which had stimulated my curiosity to learn more about the two now-extinct birds, I saw another display by the Georgia Forestry Commission. This display promoted land management based on "industrial strength forestry." Much of the display was about pine plantation forestry. I couldn't help but wonder how many more species were in precipitous decline, sacrificed for the short-term gains of humanity.

The Ecology of the White Oak

Marie B. Mellinger

From her study of White Oak made on Eastman Mountain in Rabun County, Georgia, 1969-1970

The White Oak (*Quercus alba*) is the best-known and most common tree of eastern North America. It can attain great size, and reach an age of 800 years or more. Donald Culross Peattie said, "a hundred years is brief in the life of an oak." We can trace its growth from an acorn, through sapling to maturity, and finally, decay. All along its life-way the White Oak has many intricate and varied relationships with other plants and animals, many of which are still not fully understood.

The common name, White Oak, comes from the pale gray, shallowly fissured bark, a good means of determination. The tree grows in a symmetrical manner with sturdy limbs reaching upwards, and greenish, slightly downy twigs. Leaves are regularly lobed, but can vary greatly in size. They are blue-green in summer, and paler on the underside. In late autumn they turn rusty red, then brown, and persist on the trees over winter.

Flowers appear before the leaves and are of two types: long hanging, pollen-rich aments, and short, stubby pistillate blooms. Acorns are enclosed in gray-green basket weave cups, and there is great variation in their size. The nuts have sweet kernels, and are rich in oil. They feed squirrels, deer, Quail, Ruffed Grouse, wild turkeys, bear, raccoons, Blue Jays and woodpeckers. Lee Gibbs tells us that the White Oak is a favorite nesting site of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, for the varied gray-green lichens on the oak limbs offer perfect camouflage for their tiny nests. White Oaks are also preferred nesting places for the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.

White Oak trunks are often covered with patches of Blue-green algae (*Gleocapsa*) that brighten after every rain. The trees frequently host Mistletoe (*Phoradendron*), several species of lichens such as *Parmelia* and *Lecanora*, as well as the Old Man's Beard lichen (*Usnea*). *Gerardia flava*, the



Some four hundred species of gall-making insects choose the White Oak as their host.

False foxglove, and several allied species, are partially saprophytic on the roots of White Oak. This is a relationship not very distinctly understood.

In the litter of the forest floor and growing under White Oaks are such mushrooms as the *Russula vesca*, with a brown top, firm white flesh and gills, and the stem spotted with brown. *Lactarius quietus*, with a reddish-brown top and brown concentric ringed stem, also grows under oaks. When broken, this fungus shows whitish milk and emits a sweet, oily smell. Three species of *Cortinarius* grow under oaks: the dark tan *C. hinnuleus*, the clay colored *C. anomalis*, and the lilac-blue, *C. albo-violaceus*. A puffball, *Hmenogaster*, also grows in oak litter.

Various kinds of cup fungi grow in association with oak. *Chrysosplenium* has blue-green cups on oak wood, and its mycelium can turn oak heartwood green or yellow. The *Sclerotinia* makes brown stemmed, funnel shaped cups on acorns. *Helotium* makes bright yellow cups on decaying branches or on acorns. A bark fungus, *Corticium*, makes the bark-

flaking on White Oak. The white rot of oaks, *Hydnum erinaceus*, attacks oak wood with its wet, light floccose mycelium. The sporophores that extend from the bark are white, spiny growths. The piped oak rot, *Corticium*, attacks oak heartwood. Visible fruiting bodies are irregular, pocket-like patches of white fiber on the bark. Oak wilts, *Nectria* and *Strumella*, attack White Oaks and cause cankers on the bark.

Many sorts of shelf and bracket fungi use the oak as host, but usually only after the tree is dying or dead. *Polyporus frondosus* and *Polyporus sulphureus* both put out large and vivid growths at the base of oak trees. *Bulgaria* makes clustered brackets on oak bark. The elfin *Mycena* appears in tiny tufts in knotholes.

Insects of many species utilize the White Oak in one way or another. The blue-dotted caterpillars of *Thecla calmus* and the Long-tailed Hind-wing feed on oak foliage. So to do the larvae of the White Hairstreak, *Thecla m-album*. Other butterflies whose larva feed on oak foliage include the Northern Hairstreak, the Southern Hairstreak, Edward's Hairstreak,

White Oak

the Banded Hairstreak and the Striped Hairstreak. The spined yellow and black stripe caterpillars of the Checkerspot also feed on oak leaves. The segmented caterpillars of the Dreamy Dusky-winged, and the waxy green larvae of the juvenal Dusky-wing, are also found on oak. Caterpillars of the Red-spotted purple butterfly (*Basilarchia*) also feed on oak foliage. Lace bugs (*Corythuca*) and an oak aphid, *Phylloxera quercus*, are also frequently found on White Oaks.

Acorns have their own collection of insect life. Moth larvae of *Velliosopus* live in the fallen nuts, as do the larvae of *Valentina*, a moth miner. *Balaninus*, the acorn weevils, drill holes in acorns. Squirrels are especially fond of acorns containing these weevils, according to Lutz, but other authorities say squirrels will discard all but the good nut meats.

Some four hundred species of gall-making insects choose the White Oak as their host. Many of these have a very complex life cycle, spending part of their existence in one form and in one part of the oak, and another in a different shape in another part of the tree. Most galls are slightly disfiguring but seemingly not at all harmful to the oak. The theory has been that the gall-making insect deposits an acidic secretion in plant tissue that causes the gall to form. Other studies show that there is some bacteria association, and that the bacteria may be the real cause of the gall growth. This is an area that still needs much study.

Saw flies of the genus *Callirhytis* make innumerable galls on oaks. *C. capsulis* makes stemmed galls on the underside of white oak leaves. *C. similis* makes pink, warty galls on the leaf petioles, and *C. clavula* makes a fuzzy gall, also on the petiole. *C. papillatus*, the nipple gall, makes nipple shaped projections on both sides of the leaves, each surrounded by a reddish areola. *C. fullis* makes flat galls on the leaf veins, with an alternate generation that makes woody galls on oak roots.

Entomologists cannot agree on the taxonomic names of many of the gall-makers, or even as to whether they are gall wasps, gall flies, or saw flies in certain of the complicated genera. *Cynips*, for example, which makes the common oak Hedgehog gall, is listed in some books as a saw fly. In other books this same gall-making insect is called *Ascraspis* and is listed as a wasp. So? The alternate generation of the Hedgehog gall appears on the leaf buds in early spring, and for many

years was believed to be a separate species. Spiny Hedgehog galls can be colonial, and they remind one of a curled up woolly-bear caterpillar. They are eaten by Red Squirrels and by White-footed Mice.

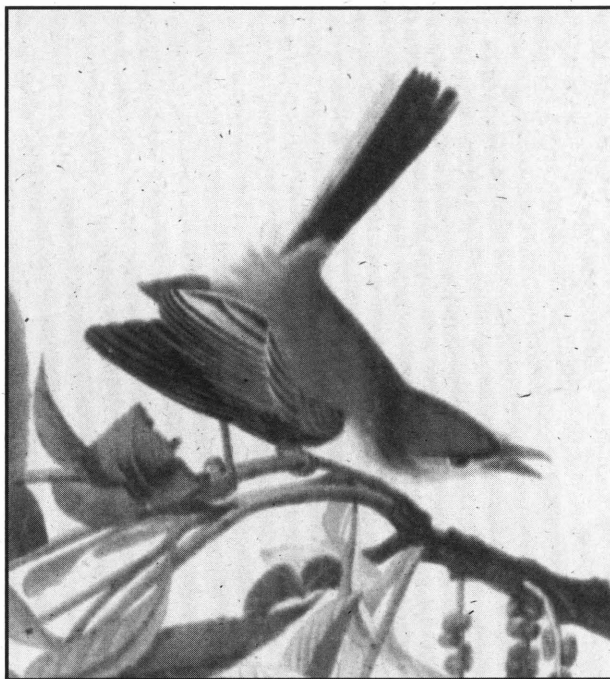
The spotted oak apple, *Cynips centricola*, appears on the underside of the leaves. It is conspicuous in the fall months and persists over winter. Each is a round, thin-shelled sphere,

with a thread-supported hard center. They grow to 4/5 inch in diameter and are edible when young. *Cynips pezomachoides* makes small galls on leaf veins, with an alternate generation on leaf buds. *Cynips prinoides* makes shiny, single celled galls on the under leaf surface.

A selection of showy galls is made by the gall midge, *Cecidomyia poculum*, and look like scattered sequins on the leaf. They also form small saucer-shaped galls on the under leaf surface, between the veins. These are often brightly colored. The gall wasp, *Taphrina*, also makes brightly colored leaf blister galls, often blue and yellow, that are raised circular spots on the oak leaf surface. *Dishlocaspis* makes bullet galls, hard round growths, on leaves or twigs. A saw fly, *Andricus flocci*, makes galls that look like tufts of white wool on the leaves. Another saw fly, *A. petiolicola*, makes many celled galls where the leaf joins the petiole. Still another *Andricus* makes a white gall on oak aments.

Gallflies, or wasps, of the genus *Neuroterus* make many forms of oak galls. Best known are the blister galls found on White Oak leaf veins. These appear on both sides of the leaves. Two species of *Neuroterus* make nipple galls on leaves and petioles, and two other species make corky galls on petioles. Alternate generations of *Neuroterus* are more typical of gallflies than of wasps. *Neuroterus vesicula* makes thin-shelled twig galls that remain on the twigs over winter, and are eaten by field sparrows and Goldfinches.

Best known of the oak galls is the oak apple, made by *Amphibolips*, but these are more common on Red Oak species than on oaks of the White Oak group. Another *Amphibolips* makes strange projections on acorn cups. *Amphibolips* is definitely a wasp. *Biorhiza*, also known as *Xanthoceras*, is a wasp that makes oak fig galls. The alternate generation appears as fleshy root galls.



White oaks are preferred nesting places for the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.

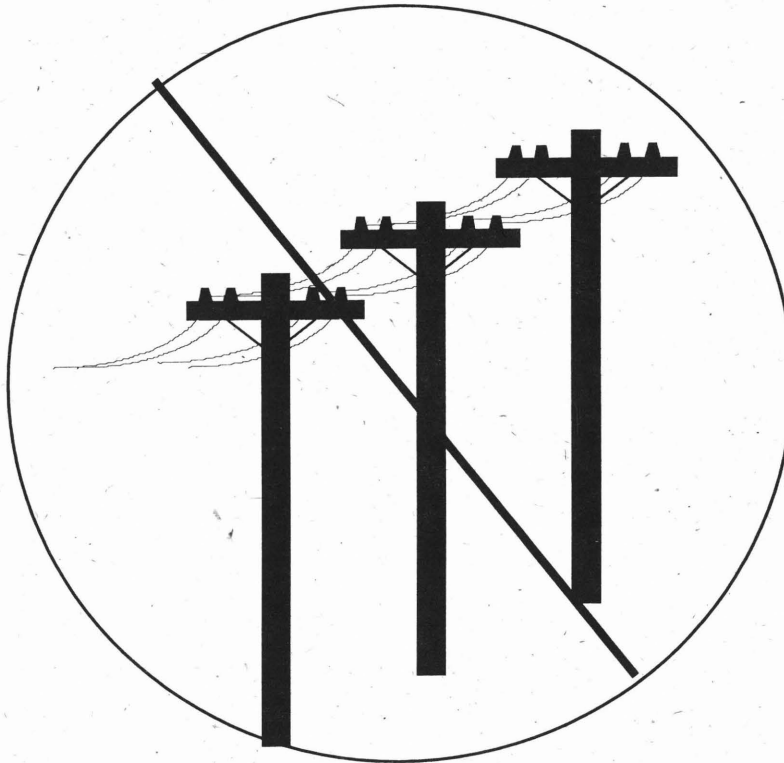
painting by John James Audubon

Rabun County Power Line Controversy

Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) has announced its intention to construct a 115 kilovolt transmission line to "serve the projected load" for the Rabun County, Georgia area. The proposed transmission line would be located north of Lake Burton; specifically, in the Persimmon Valley area. The proposed line is also intended "to help GTC maintain overall system reliability" for the entire utility system. GTC has proposed three routes, all of which go through Rabun County.

Since Rabun County is composed of only about 30% private land, the proposed lines would, in effect, destroy the scenery in a beautiful farm and tourist community. The lines would cut across mountains and through river valleys; tower over schoolyards, churches and historic landmarks; and loom over a senior citizen's center and a retirement home. The farming valleys, with their lush orchards, vineyards, field crops and rolling pastures, would be forever scarred. The natural wonder and bountiful wildlife of wetlands and forests would be threatened. The proposed transmission line is, therefore, a very important situation facing the citizens of Rabun County.

Not all of the proposed routes go through land that is part of the Chattooga River watershed; however, this project would have far-reaching impacts on the future of an area, which so far has been managed to preserve much of its natural beauty. The Chattooga Conservancy (formerly Chattooga River Watershed Coalition) has been instrumental in forming a coalition of concerned citizens called the **Citizens for Rabun's Heritage**. This group is working to address the issues raised by the proposed transmission line project. With the help of their elected officials, these and other citizens have persuaded GTC to grant additional time to consider this project. To that end, Citizens for Rabun's Heritage hope to provide the facts and background information necessary to make the upcoming important decisions regarding future electrical construction projects in Rabun County.



HISTORY

The evolution of the electric utilities into the large corporations of today, from the small rural electric cooperatives created in the 1930's to bring electricity to the farmers, has been long and complex process. The passage of the Rural Electrification Act established a federal agency that was authorized to loan money to cooperatives so that they could build rural power lines. Habersham Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) was chartered in 1938, and by June of 1939 there were lines in Habersham, Rabun, and White counties (Georgia). Under its charter, Habersham EMC bought power from other utilities (like Georgia Power) and built lines to expand its service area to new customers.

As use of electricity increased, the utilities grew. By the early 1960's utilities were connected to each other from

coast to coast, buying and selling power to each other as needed to meet consumer demand. The infamous blackout in New York City, which nearly caused the entire eastern seaboard to lose power, brought out the need for reliability guidelines in the electric industry. As a result, regional reliability councils were formed throughout the country. The Southeastern Reliability Council (SERC) includes Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, part of Virginia and until recently, Flor-

ida. The SERC establishes reliability criteria for the construction, operation and maintenance of power systems owned by utilities located in its region.

Several changes in the energy marketplace during the late 1960's and the early 1970's had dramatic impacts on the electric utility industry. The United States entered an era of increased environmental awareness, rising fuel costs, developing concern for preservation of natural resources, and mounting fears regarding nuclear safety. The net effects were drastic increases in the costs of building new power plants that could meet the more stringent environmental and safety regulations, and a resulting slow down in the construction schedules. Georgia Power, which had initiated an ag-

Power Line Controversy

gressive building plan in an attempt to keep up with the fast growth in Atlanta and the rest of the Southeast, got caught in a financial bind due to the cost escalations.

In 1974, the Georgia legislature passed a law which enabled Georgia Power to get much needed additional funding to proceed with its nuclear power plant construction. The legislation created Oglethorpe Power Corporation from thirty-nine Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs), and created the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG) from forty-seven cities and Crisp County. These entities were granted partial ownership of the plants under construction and portions of other existing plants, as well as partial ownership of the large transmission system that traversed the state (now called the "Integrated Transmission System"), in exchange for providing monies from their respective funding sources (the Rural Electrification Act for Oglethorpe, and municipal bond issues for MEAG).

In addition, Georgia Power later procured additional funding to complete its construction plan by setting up long term contracts to sell the power output of its two newest coal plants to Florida utilities. This action, which was precipitated by the cessation of power plant construction in Florida due to the state's strict environmental and anti-nuclear policies, led to the accusation by many that "Florida's air was being cleaned with Georgia's lungs."

In an attempt to encourage expansion of renewable resource based technologies such as solar and wind, Congress passed the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) in 1978. PURPA established specific guidelines under which the electric power output of independently owned facilities could be sold to the electric utilities for re-sale over the power grid. Entrepreneurs saw in PURPA the opportunity to get into the power business without being subjected to utility regulations. However, the cost structure of the utilities, which was the basis for calculation of the price of the electricity to be sold back to the utilities, made it uneconomic in most cases for the independent power producers to sell back to the utilities. Consequently, in the absence of intervention by state lawmakers, or regulators in the form of additional incentives to the utility to purchase from the non-utility power producers, the objectives of PURPA remained unmet in Georgia and many other states.

CURRENT SITUATION

The failure of PURPA to sufficiently diversify the mix of power generation facilities in electricity production across the nation has been a major factor in the move towards deregulation of the electric utility industry. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has taken steps toward deregulation of the electric utility industry by issuing guidelines for the formation of regional transmission organizations (RTO). These RTOs would be independent organizations that operated transmission systems of the utilities spanning several states. The deadline set by FERC for initiating the voluntary

formation of the RTO's is November 2000; thus far, the Southeast region is behind the rest of the country, due to difficulties of the utilities involved in reaching mutually satisfactory agreements.

In anticipation of deregulation, Oglethorpe Power Corporation was restructured into three separate corporations in 1997. GTC purchased the transmission facilities previously owned by Oglethorpe, and is responsible for constructing new transmission lines and substations. Oglethorpe is now only in charge of the power generation part of the business. The third company, Georgia System Operations Corporation, is in charge of the daily operation of the entire system, as well as in sales and purchases of power from other utilities. GTC is currently involved with the other utilities in the Southeast in discussions regarding the formation of an RTO.

RABUN COUNTY CONTROVERSY

When GTC announced its plans for the North Burton project, there were several questions that immediately surfaced: Why is such a large line being proposed? Which government agency regulates GTC and decides if this line is really needed, or determines the best location? The answers to these questions depend upon whom is asked, and context of the questions. Unfortunately for the citizens of Rabun County, the answers reveal a unique and distressing situation in Georgia, compared to most other states in the country.

According to GTC, the 115 kilovolt line is required to meet local load projections starting in 2002, and to maintain system reliability criteria. Yet a 155 kilovolt line is, by definition, a transmission line rather than a local distribution line. Based on limited conversations with the engineers at Habersham EMC and GTC, the expected demand for electricity in the local area is only about 1/10 of the amount to be carried by the 115 kilovolt line. System reliability criteria add an extra margin of safety to the known size requirements (to prevent blackouts and to preserve electrical equipment), but for most utilities in the country, that reliability margin is in the range of 10 to 20%. So even when the reliability margin is added to the load requirements, the planned line size is much bigger than the local community needs. Concerned citizens are still trying to obtain copies of engineering studies used to develop the project requirements, but utility personnel have so far been resistant to requests for the documentation that substantiates their claims about the need for larger lines. Due to the large discrepancies between local needs and the proposed project, it appears that GTC wants to build the transmission line to serve electrical needs outside of Rabun County and perhaps outside of the state of Georgia, despite their protests to the contrary.

With regards to the question of regulation—or more to the point—the question of who is in charge of making sure the utilities' proposals are ultimately implemented in the best interest of everyone involved, the answer is quite complicated. Unlike the investor-owned utilities (Georgia Power and its

Power Line Controversy

counterpart, Savannah Electric and Power Company), the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) does not regulate Habersham EMC or GTC.

As nonprofit corporations formed from the rural electric coops, the activities of the EMCs were considered to be self-regulating; that is, owners of the corporation, who are the members (rate paying customers), are theoretically in charge. Each year the members of each EMC have an annual meeting at which they review the operations of the EMC and elect individuals to fill open positions on the EMC's Board of Directors, who are supposed to be the watchdogs for the members. (Ironically, the directors rarely have the technical background to fully appreciate the implications of the decisions they are asked to make.) In like fashion on a larger scale, the EMCs own OPC, GTC and GSOC, and review their operations as well as elect their respective Board of Directors. In reality, individual participation in the EMCs is minimal or nonexistent, except in cases of great controversy. Similarly, the influence of each EMC on its subsidiary corporations is limited to issues of specific relevance to an individual EMC.

In general, both the day to day operating decisions, as well as larger issues of corporate policy are decided by the employees and management of these companies, with almost no input or oversight from people or governmental bodies outside the organization. The major exceptions to this unsupervised situation occur under very specific circumstances: 1) requests for funding from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) are reviewed for conformance with generally accepted utility practice; 2) sales of electric power from one utility to another are reviewed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and 3) reported violations of environmental regulations are investigated by the appropriate state and federal organizations. Plans for new construction projects are reviewed by no governmental organization, since Georgia is one of the few states in the country with no siting law for facilities proposed by either utilities or independent power producers.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

As Rabun County's controversy moves into the spotlight, similar situations in the state that have occurred over the past several years are also coming to light. According to GTC's 1998 Annual Report, eighteen substations and eight transmission line projects of the 115 kilovolt size were completed in 1998. (As of this writing, the 1999 Annual Report was not available for comparison.) More shocking is the fact that every transmission project completed in the past two years by GTC has been fought by locals, but won by GTC in the State Supreme Court. The communities affected have given every indication that they object to the projects, but laws to protect the communities are nonexistent and the state courts are consistently turning a sympathetic ear to the corporations. It is a sad state of affairs that the rural electric co-ops started in the 1930's to help the farmers by providing rural communities with the opportunity to use electric power have mutated into large, out of control corporations which announce that they

have the "constitutional right" to build power plants or lines, and put them where they want to whether the communities they are supposedly serving want them or not!

It would seem that the cries of the Rabun County citizenry may be as futile as previous local opposition, but the battle is not yet over. The good people of Rabun County are reasonable and hardworking, and they are pulling together to address a common threat: the needless destruction of the natural beauty of their mountain homeland for the sake of the pocketbooks of advocates of mindless growth. The citizenry of Rabun County have already enlisted the aid of their elected officials to slow down the GTC project, so that it can be more thoroughly examined. The issues raised by the Rabun County power line controversy have also identified several areas which may require further action to prevent the reoccurrence of similar situations either in Rabun County or elsewhere in Georgia.

Besides becoming more actively involved in the operations of the local EMC and staying informed about the activities of its subsidiary corporations, further investigations must be done into the lack of appropriate siting legislation in the state of Georgia. In the absence of such state legislation, local governments may want to consider passing ordinances which protect their community's interests. Such an ordinance has successfully made it through the first stage of passage in Rabun County, thanks to the responsiveness of the County Commissioners. Not unexpectedly, GTC responded swiftly and negatively to the actions of the Rabun County Commission. Too bad GTC has not been so efficient in cooperating with the requests for documentation to substantiate their transmission line proposal!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you are a member of Habersham EMC, we urge you to attend the annual meeting on July 18th at Hambersham Central High School. If you cannot attend, you may request an absentee ballot from Habersham EMC to vote for the new Board of Directors. Two Rabun County residents have been nominated in addition to the three non-resident incumbents, but there are only three open positions. If you are not a member of Hambersham EMC but a resident of Rabun County, you can still help by calling and writing your local and state elected officials, writing letters to the newspaper, by offering rides to the annual meeting, by providing childcare for members who want to attend, etc. Efforts of the Citizens for Rabun's Heritage are being supported by the Chattooga Conservancy, who are coordinating volunteer efforts as well. If you are a member of another EMC in Georgia, you may want to become more active by attending its annual meetings and monitoring the activities of GTC, OPC, and GSOC. If your electricity is not provided by a Georgia EMC but you are a resident of Georgia, you may want to become active in the efforts to develop and pass utility plant siting legislation for the state. If you fall into none of the above categories but still want to help, call us!

Watershed Update

WEST FORK VICTORY

The long, hard fight to help negotiate the purchase of one of the last pieces of private land within the Chattooga's Wild and Scenic River Corridor has finally taken a turn for the better. The West Fork tract, known locally as the Nicholson tract, was purchased this spring by an Atlanta businessman who in turn sold it to the Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund will hold the land until the U.S. Forest Service can buy the tract and put it into permanent public ownership. *However, this is not a "done deal" yet! **Calls to Members of Congress are needed now, requesting \$3 million funding for fiscal year 2001 earmarked specifically for land acquisition in the Chattooga watershed.***

As many may recall, the West Fork tract was the center of considerable controversy over the past three years, beginning in the summer of 1997 when the owners attempted to deny access to everyone floating the section of the river running through their property. They gained widespread notoriety by hanging an ominous sign from a cable stretched across the river stating "NO TRESPASSING, SURVIVORS WILL BE PROSECUTED," and manning the river banks with armed enforcers. After much prodding by this organization as well as publicity in the media, the Forest Service obtained a temporary restraining order that allowed the public back on that section of river. Meanwhile, the Office of General Counsel and the US Attorney sought a permanent solution to the controversy by arguing that the West Fork was a "navigable waterway," which would strengthen the case for public access to its waters.

Now, the big unanswered question is where the money will come from to get the tract into public ownership. Funds for the Forest Service's purchase of the tract originate at the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund—a funding source that has been consistently and severely shortchanged in yearly federal appropriations, and much of which has already been earmarked for other projects. *It is very important for our Members of Congress to hear from everyone in support of the speedy acquisition of this critical tract!*

GEORGIA STREAM BUFFER BILL SIGNED INTO LAW

A bill from the Georgia State House known as HB 1426 has recently been signed into law, and brings bad news for trout streams in the Georgia portion of the Chattooga watershed. The bill allows private landowners to pipe their first order streams, an action that is the death knell for the stream's biological diversity, as it eliminates habitat and the variety of organisms living there. In addition, the bill also reduces the protected buffer along trout streams, from 100 feet to 50 feet. The science is clear that both of these provisions will degrade fishing opportunities, destroy habitat and disrupt the food chain. Over the long term, these clauses will allow development across north Georgia to continue with little regulatory controls for protecting our trout streams.

JACKSON-MACON CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

A new local conservation group called the Jackson-Macon Conservation Alliance (JMCA) has formed to "serve as an alliance of organizations dedicated to protect and preserve the natural environment and cultural character of the headwater regions of western North Carolina." We welcome this organization as a strong partner in promoting good stewardship of public and private land in the Chattooga River watershed and adjoining area. The group's service region includes the headwater streams of the Chattooga River, many of which are suffering from the negative effects of ongoing development in the townships of Highlands and Cashiers, North Carolina. Alliance members are: Chattooga Conservancy; Conservation Trust for NC; Friends of Lake Glenville; Highlands Biological Station; Highlands Land Trust; Highlands Plateau Audubon Society; Save Our Rivers; The Village Green; and Western NC Alliance. The group's associate members are the US Forest Service, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, and the Scaly Mountain Community. Chattooga Conservancy Executive Director Buzz Williams is serving as Co-Chairman of the JMCA Board of Directors.

CHATTOOGA WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

The US Forest Service has launched into their first year of projects under the agency's new initiative called the "Chattooga River Watershed Restoration Project." Many of this year's actions concern upgrading the Forest Service's road system, through rehabilitation of numerous roads throughout the Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala National Forests. While a measure of road maintenance is appropriate, certainly a much more compelling case can be made for immediately directing the Restoration Project's considerable financial resources to work on the perennial water quality problems of Stekoa Creek (Georgia tributary to the Chattooga River). *We encourage all citizens concerned about the terrible water quality of Stekoa Creek and the potential to improve this situation to lobby the Forest Service for project monies earmarked to this end.*

Meanwhile, the Chattooga Conservancy is closely monitoring project developments, and it appears that the majority of funds are slated for new recreation development projects, as opposed to watershed restoration activities. We have proposed a number of cooperative endeavors with the agency, all of which fall clearly in the camp of ecosystem restoration actions. In SC's Andrew Pickens Ranger District we proposed restoring a large patch of native cane at Chattooga Old Town, site of the historic Cherokee Indian village near the GA/NC state line. In NC's Highlands Ranger District, we proposed restoring several trout hatchery runs located on a newly acquired tract, to study and propagate native Brook Trout. In Georgia, we are working to restore a riparian buffer zone along a section of Stekoa Creek that will also serve as a park, and we suggested that the Forest Service partner with us in this demonstration project. Stay tuned!

Watershed Update

FUN FACTS

As we head into our third year of drought in the Chattooga River watershed, one can easily despair and wonder: what good could come from such a lack of water?

During the summer of 1925, the Southeast, and especially north Georgia, experienced one of the worst droughts in the history of the state.... The drought was so extensive that the hydroelectric output of practically all the other power companies in the Southeast was affected.... The [Georgia Railway and Power] Company's inability to meet the full power requirements of its customers was a source of much embarrassment to Mr. Atkinson and did much to shatter his dreams of large additional water power developments on the Chattooga...River in north Georgia. (from History of the Georgia Power Company, 1855-1956; thanks to Ruddy Ellis for this info!)

CHATTOOGA RIVER WATER LEVEL HISTORY

table composed by W. S. Lesani

	Yearly data			Seasonal data			
	highest	average	lowest	highest	average	lowest	
1940	8.76	1.38	0.69	8.76	1.45	0.80	1940
1941	4.69	1.25	0.75	4.69	1.25	0.75	1941
1942	4.96	1.49	1.00	2.64	1.45	1.04	1942
1943	3.62	1.53	0.82	3.62	1.52	0.92	1943
1944	3.55	1.42	0.77	3.55	1.42	0.78	1944
1945	2.93	1.37	0.87	2.59	1.34	0.87	1945
1946	4.85	1.65	0.81	3.94	1.52	0.81	1946
1947	4.31	1.34	0.59	2.80	1.24	0.59	1947
1948	4.92	1.67	0.93	4.92	1.57	0.93	1948
1949	5.42	1.97	1.30	5.42	2.01	1.38	1949
1950	3.49	1.50	0.98	3.49	1.48	0.98	1950
1951	3.92	1.36	0.62	2.70	1.31	0.62	1951
1952	5.50	1.45	0.65	5.50	1.46	0.69	1952
1953	4.47	1.44	0.72	3.16	1.34	0.76	1953
1954	4.09	1.30	0.45	2.02	1.20	0.45	1954
1955	3.54	1.32	0.73	3.22	1.40	0.76	1955
1956	3.80	1.23	0.54	3.80	1.22	0.54	1956
1957	4.22	1.57	0.75	4.22	1.45	0.75	1957
1958	3.16	1.50	0.79	3.16	1.55	0.82	1958
1959	4.22	1.56	0.97	4.22	1.62	1.03	1959
1960	3.60	1.56	1.01	3.60	1.53	1.02	1960
1961	5.38	1.57	0.94	3.08	1.49	0.95	1961
1962	3.30	1.62	0.75	3.01	1.47	0.75	1962
1963	4.17	1.42	0.84	4.17	1.45	0.85	1963
1964	7.32	1.80	0.89	7.32	1.83	0.89	1964
1965	5.07	1.59	0.94	5.07	1.61	1.05	1965
1966	6.05	1.59	0.93	3.26	1.48	0.93	1966
1967	6.34	1.68	1.14	6.34	1.66	1.14	1967
1968	3.82	1.43	0.81	3.82	1.37	0.81	1968
1969	5.21	1.62	1.09	5.21	1.63	1.09	1969
1970	2.73	1.34	0.76	2.73	1.31	0.76	1970
1971	4.56	1.58	0.92	2.65	1.45	0.92	1971
1972	3.85	1.63	0.97	3.50	1.48	0.97	1972
1973	6.28	1.88	0.98	6.28	1.86	0.99	1973
1974	3.67	1.74	1.05	3.46	1.71	1.09	1974
1975	3.98	1.75	0.92	3.98	1.74	0.92	1975
1976	6.74	1.76	0.96	6.74	1.81	0.96	1976
1977	5.35	1.70	0.88	5.35	1.72	0.88	1977
1978	4.29	1.44	0.77	3.82	1.31	0.78	1978
1979	6.37	2.00	1.15	4.32	1.90	1.15	1979
1980	4.20	1.53	0.77	4.20	1.61	0.77	1980
1981	2.86	1.11	0.55	2.86	1.11	0.55	1981
1982	3.85	1.58	0.92	2.16	1.39	0.92	1982
1983	4.04	1.69	0.82	3.46	1.61	0.82	1983
1984	3.49	1.57	0.92	2.73	1.58	0.92	1984
1985	3.24	1.35	0.87	2.89	1.24	0.87	1985
1986	4.30	1.21	0.48	2.45	1.03	0.48	1986
1987	3.73	1.38	0.68	2.47	1.32	0.68	1987
1988	3.51	1.13	0.60	2.34	1.04	0.60	1988
1989	4.78	1.67	1.00	4.78	1.76	1.10	1989
1990	4.98	1.62	0.83	4.98	1.48	0.83	1990
1991	3.20	1.65	0.93	3.20	1.68	0.98	1991
1992	4.38	1.72	1.03	4.38	1.59	1.03	1992
1993	3.25	1.51	0.61	3.25	1.41	0.61	1993
1994	6.71	1.70	1.05	6.71	1.73	1.12	1994
1995	5.06	1.63	0.93	5.06	1.49	0.93	1995

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Federal Budget The draft Interior Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2001 is moving forward, and includes increased funds for logging our national forests. The House bill allots \$245 million for timber sales, which is a \$25 million increase over the Forest Service's request and is intended to attain the "timber target" of 3.6 billion board feet of timber. The bill also directs the Forest Service to spend whatever's needed on roads, until this target quota is reached. Altogether, this represents a significant increase in taxpayer's subsidies for the Forest Service's money-losing timber program. In addition, several anti-environmental riders are included in the draft bill as funding limits for certain conservation initiatives and agencies. Thus, the draft Appropriations bill is clearly headed in the wrong direction. As the Appropriations bill proceeds, we encourage citizens to contact your Members of Congress, learn where they stand on public land management issues, and voice your opinion on how your tax dollars are spent!

Conservation & Reinvestment Act (CARA, H.R. 701) In early May 2000, the House of Representatives passed landmark legislation called the Conservation & Reinvestment Act, which would provide over \$3 billion per year for federal land acquisitions and state fish and game programs. Finally, the Land and Water Conservation Fund would receive its full authorized amount of \$900 million, which is obtained from royalties on off-shore oil drilling rigs. However, a major amendment was added to the House version of CARA that permits its annual funding only if: 1) there is no federal budget deficit for the year; 2) Social Security and Medicare are projected to be running in the black for the next five years; and 3) Congress is on schedule to eliminate the federal debt by the year 2013. It is likely that CARA will come to fruition only if this amendment is removed in its Senate version, where the bill will also face weighty opposition. A call to your Senators is in order.

Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act A thorn in the side of national forest management reform historically has been a federal provision known as the 25% Fund, which ties public land timber harvest proceeds to payments to counties where the national forests are located. Certainly, this well known dividend creates a strong incentive for high levels of tree cutting to maximize the return to counties. Less well known, however, is the fact that counties would get federal funds even if not one tree was harvested, via another federal provision called Payments in Lieu of Taxes. For progressive minded counties seeking to conserve and preserve the bulk of their national forests for clean air and water, hunting, fishing and their natural heritage, a growing movement to unlink county payments from timber harvests was gaining momentum. Now, we are confronted with the bill named above, called the Wyden/Craig bill for short. This bill actually strengthens the link between timber receipts and counties by earmarking up to 20% of the payments (previously used for roads and schools) for "resource stewardship projects" where local governments must fund activities on national forest lands. The House has passed the bill; now it's up to the Senate. Please urge your representatives to oppose this bill.

Member's Page

MANY THANKS to all who recently renewed their membership and/or joined the Chattooga Conservancy.

We've changed our name! In January 2000, the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition's (CRWC) Board of Directors elected to dissolve the coalition model, and turn over the organization to the governance of its individual members. Specifically, board members who were previously delegates from the Coalition's founding groups are no longer bound to adhere to the platforms of their home organizations, and now can represent their interests solely as members of the CRWC. In addition, the Board elected to support the formation of the Chattooga Land Trust, which will augment the CRWC's land stewardship goals and function as a satellite organization of CRWC. In consideration of this, we decided to change our name to **CHATTOOGA CONSERVANCY**. Our organizational mission, goals, objectives and current programs remain unchanged, with the added capacity of land trust functions.

Doug & Eedee Adams
 Ethel M. & John Allen
 William Anderson, Jr.
 Davis Andrews
 Rick Arflin
 Harvard Ayers
 Alan C. Bailey
 Belk Library
 Randy Bigbee
 Patricia Boyd
 Anita & Barney Brannen
 Margaret & Ben Brockman
 Dr. John H. Brower
 Richard and Elizabeth Bruce
 Tom Buckridge
 Jennie T. & Martin Burrell
 Lavon & Tim Callahan
 James T. Callier, Jr.
 Jane C. & Robert Challie
 Oscar M. Chambless
 George Chase, Jr.
 Jamie M. Clarke
 Ken Cleveland
 Buck Cobb
 Rick Cobb
 Stephanie & Tom Coffin
 Mark Collins
 Mark and Kathy Colwell
 Walter Cook Jr.
 Bill Cooley
 Cary Cox
 Frank Crane
 John R. Crane
 Steve Crook
 Andy Crowe
 Debra Davis
 Donald DeBona
 Amy Delaplaine
 John DeLoach
 William & Barbara Denton
 Heather Dicks
 Paul Digirolomo
 Lewis Dorn
 John DuBose
 Elisabeth Elder
 J. Thomas Ellicott, Jr.

R.L. Ellis, Jr.
 Sean Everett & Carol
 Michael D. Faith
 Nancy Farris
 Friends of Lake Keowee
 Robert & Nancy Fichter
 Henry Finkbeiner
 Robert & Jane Foster
 Peter Furniss
 Sally Gladden
 Philip & Mildred Greear
 Greenville Natural Hist. A.
 David Green
 Betsy Hamilton
 JMM Harrison
 David Hart
 Robert & Margaret Hatcher
 Evan Heckle
 Mr. & Mrs. JG Henderson
 Rick & Vivian Hester
 Mike Higgins
 Laurence Holden
 Charles Hooper, Sr.
 Paul Horner
 William C. Horton
 Terry & Paige Howell
 Janet Italiano
 Mr. Nelson Italiano
 John Izard, Jr.
 Curtis & Jane Jackson
 Tom Jarrard
 Mike Jones
 WR Keener
 David Keller
 Kerr Landscaping and Design
 Rev. Daniel King
 Dr. Graydon Kingsland
 Kathryn Kolb
 Liz & Marty Kuemmerer
 David & Shandon Land
 Sallie C. Lanier

Marië Lawrence
 Richard Lerner
 John Lewis
 Langdon & Jessie Long
 Edward Loughlin, Jr. MD
 Bill & Celia Mahar
 Marshall Mahone
 David S. Martin
 David Mason
 Elizabeth Mauldin
 Phillip B. Mayer
 Dan & Mary Emma
 Freda & Johnny McFarlane
 Cynthia McKinney
 Dr. William McLarney
 Fred McRee
 Thorpe Moeckel
 Lilly-Mulhern
 Jo Myers
 Martha Jane Nelson
 John B. Nicholson
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Norman
 Roger & Elizabeth Nott
 Robert Overstreet
 Wayne Parker
 JC Patterson
 Craig Pendergraft
 Dan & Jean Pittillo
 Chad Plumly
 George & Jane Polk
 Susan Posey & Will. Jacobs.
 Tom & Frances Power
 JM Pruitt
 Virginia & Louis Reynaud
 Dennis "Kidman" Riddle
 Eric Rodgers
 J. Speed Rogers
 Susan Rogers & Cath. Sale
 Dr. Paul Sandifer
 Wyatt Saunders
 SELC

Robert Sheldon
 Judy Slade
 South Carolina Forest Watch
 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Smith
 Kembra L. Smith
 Albert Solga
 Mrs. William Stack, Jr.
 Bob and Joanne Steele
 Janeth Stephancic
 Billy Joe Stiles
 James E. Strive
 Dianne Stumms
 Scott & Missy Sullivan
 Scott M. & Donna Sylvester
 Marvin Tabor
 Carmen Talley
 Claudia Taylor
 Win & Sarah Taylor
 Thelen
 The Mountain
 Bill Thomas
 Eloise B. Thompson
 Timpson Creek Millworks
 William Tietjen
 Tim Todd
 Jane & Tom Tracy
 Faith & Harry Turner
 Morris Turpin
 Russ Tyre
 Michael D. Violet
 Lisa Wagner & Timothy Spira
 Barrett P. Walker
 M.E. Warlick
 Sidney D. Wash Jr.
 Tom & Laura West
 Dr. Mary S. Wheeler
 William White
 Robert Williams
 Teresa & Megan Wilson
 Doug Woodward
 Sandy Wright

Chattooga Conservancy

Staff

Executive Director
Buzz Williams

Development Director
Nicole Hayler

Administration & GIS
Cindy Berrier

Program Assistant
Tom Cromartie

*We are a 501C3 non-profit
organization incorporated in
Georgia.*

Board of Directors:

*Richard Cain
Don Bundrick
Dave Barstow
Shirl Parsons
Lew Dorn
Don Sanders
Dr. Robert Zahner
Randall White
Ed Speir
Dennis Cunningham*

Newsletter

*Editors, Buzz Williams
& Nicole Hayler*

*Production and Layout,
CRWC Staff*

*Printing,
Gap Graphics*

Endorsing Organizations

*Friends of the Mountains
GA Forest Watch
Western NC Alliance
SC Forest Watch
South Carolina Sierra Club
The Wilderness Society
Association of Forest Service
Employees for Environmental Ethics
Foothills Canoe Club
Atlanta Whitewater Club
Georgia Canoeing Association
Higgins Hardwood Gear
A. F. Clewell, Inc.
Atlanta Audubon Society*

*National Wildlife Federation
Action for a Clean Environment
Georgia Botanical Society
Georgia Ornithological Society
Columbia Audubon Society
The Georgia Conservancy
Southern Environmental Law Center
Three Forks Country Store
Central Georgia River Runners
Green Salamander Cafe*

*Lunatic Apparel
Arkansas Canoe Club
Mountain Rest Clipper
Georgia Environmental Organization,
Inc.
Timber Framers Guild of North
America
Government Accountability Project
Carolina Bird Club
Dagger, Inc.
Pothole Paddles
Turpin's Custom Sawmill
Two Dog Cafe*

Renewal

☐

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Tel. _____

MEMBERSHIP

Spring 2000

Join the CC and help protect the Chattooga River watershed

Your contribution is greatly appreciated. Donations will be used to support the Conservancy's work, and guarantee you delivery of the *Chattooga Quarterly*.

We're a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

Individual: \$14

☐

Group: \$27

☐

Donation:

☐

Sponsor: \$49

☐

Send to:

*Chattooga Conservancy
P.O. Box 2006
Clayton, Georgia 30525*

Chattooga Conservancy

PO Box 2006

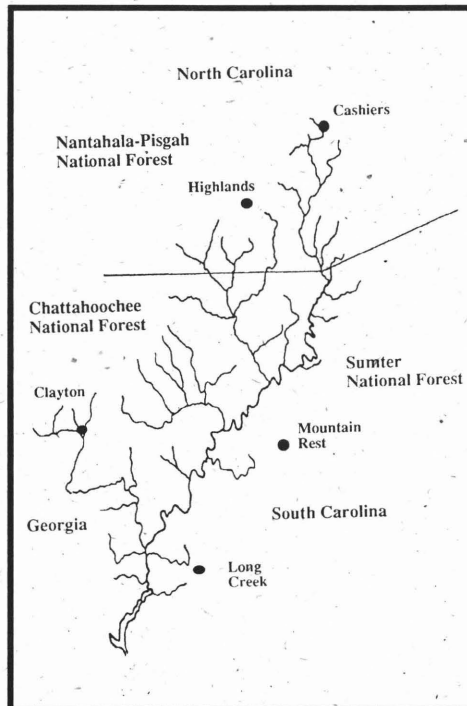
Clayton GA 30525

(706) 782-6097 tel. * (706)782-6098 fax * crwc@rabun.net Email * www.chattoogariver.com Web page

Purpose: "To protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed ecosystem; to ensure the viability of native species in harmony with the need for a healthy human environment; and to educate and empower communities to practice good stewardship on public and private lands."

Made Possible By:

CC Members and Volunteers
Lyndhurst Foundation
Frances Allison Close
Merck Family Fund
Turner Foundation
Town Creek Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Smithsonian Institution CTSP
Katherine John Murphy Foundation
Environmental Systems Research Institute



Goals:

- Monitor the U.S. Forest Service's management of public forest lands in the watershed
- Educate the public
- Promote public choice based on credible scientific information
- Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service within the watershed
- Protect remaining old growth and roadless areas
- Work cooperatively with the Forest Service to develop a sound ecosystem initiative for the watershed

Chattooga Conservancy
PO Box 2006
Clayton, GA 30525

Non-Profit Organization
Bulk Rate Permit #33
Clayton, GA

Address Service Requested



printed on recycled paper
100% post-consumer waste