



Chattooga Quarterly

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ISSAQUEENA



STARTER & GROWER MASH

The legend of Issaqueena is popular in our local cultural iconography

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Director's Page

Buzz Williams

On December 28, 2006, Marie Mellinger died in her home on Valley Street in Clayton, Georgia, at the age of 92. Marie spent a lifetime learning and teaching about nature. She was a great friend of the Chattooga River, and the Chattooga Conservancy.

Marie was known for her hands-on approach to exploring nature. She wrote books about wild edibles and plant identification, led field trips, conducted field surveys and inventoried rare plants, offered lectures and slide shows, was an expert on Cherokee culture, and—above all else—she advocated for conservation with an indomitable spirit. A memorial service was held for Marie on January 27th at the Chattooga Conservancy office. It was a packed house. Most who spoke at the service told humorous stories about a personal experience they had on outings with Marie. The fact is, she was a real character.

I first heard about Marie in the early 1980s. At the time, I was working as a river guide on the Chattooga, and had come to love studying the fauna and flora in the watershed. I soon discovered a great source of information in a weekly column written for the Clayton Tribune by Marie Mellinger called "Under The North Georgia Grape Vine." These articles were so full of valuable information about cultural and natural history that I clipped and saved every one I could find, keeping them in a folder that I still have today.

A quick perusal of just the titles of some of these columns gives insight into the rich character of the author. She wrote "To Hunt for Seal and Sang," "Wonderful Ways with Weeds," "Let Us Smile at Smilax," "October Offerings," ad infinitum, and she never ran out of fresh and interesting information. What I liked mostly about Marie's style was the simple and understandable way that she had of getting people interested in technical information. Her writing was laced with poetry, interesting historical facts, folklore and humor. So, for literally years I was a fan and understudy of Marie Mellinger but had never met her.

Though we had not met, I had this mental image of what Marie was like. I thought of her as being the archetypical, prime and proper little old lady school teacher. Finally, one day I got the chance to meet the real Marie. I read that she was scheduled to lead a hike on Wolf Creek to find an exotic plant that had escaped from where it was originally planted at an old house place, into the wild where it had become naturalized. It

was called the Japanese Paper Plant, named so because in its homeland the plant's fiber had been used to make paper. The fact that this invasive plant was propagating down Wolf Creek toward the Chattooga River was very interesting, so I signed up for the hike. Excited at the chance to learn something firsthand from Marie Mellinger, I arrived early. No one else had shown up except a spry old lady in bright green pants, sitting on the tailgate of a pickup truck drinking a Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. It was friendship forged in heaven.

My friendship with Marie was based on more than just that of mentor and disciple. For as it turns out, we shared a deep love for all things wild, and a great respect for native cultural history. But there was something even deeper than that. Marie was a strong advocate for conservation, with very little patience for those who exploited the natural world. Through the years,

Marie was a friend that I could always count on when the going got tough. It was that fighting spirit in Marie that I admired most.

On the other hand, Marie could be as gentle and caring as anyone I ever knew. She was always giving away little packets of wild seeds she had collected, and small bundles of handmade postcards tied up with scraps of colored knitting yarn, or she would give away scrapbooks on various subjects like mushrooms or a particular plant, that were filled with articles and pictures and whatever else she might find on the subject.



Marie's paper plant tree is now growing in my yard, and I think of her every time I pass by.

I once asked if she could recommend a book on Cherokee culture. She gave me a copy of *The High Place of the Cherokee*, by Marie Mellinger. It is a great book, simple to read and full of interesting information. When I opened the book for the first time, I found it inscribed as follows: "Atohuna! Sincerely, Marie B. Mellinger." The book's glossary defines this Cherokee word as "Friends made, more than friends, almost brothers. Term given to two or more organisms living together for mutual good."

About a week after Marie's service, I received a visit from Betty Cook, a close friend of Marie's who cared for her so wonderfully in her last years. Betty may have heard me tell the story about the first time I met Marie. She said that Marie had a Japanese Paper Plant growing outside her front door that was one of her favorite plants. She asked if I would like to have it. Now the little tree is doing well in my yard, and I think of Marie every time I pass by. Marie did so much to inspire us all and she will never be forgotten. Atohuna! Marie.

Walhalla Watershed

Buzz Williams

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Walhalla City Council on January 9, 2007, promised to be routine and uneventful, at least according to the agenda posted on the door at City Hall: Call to Order; Welcome; Approval of Minutes; Old Business; New Business; Committee Reports; Mayor's Comments; Adjourn. In fact, except for two local reporters, no one from the general public showed up for the meeting, and even they left after the committee reports when the mayor, the city administrator, and Walhalla's six city council members moved into closed session to discuss a "contractual matter." At 6:51 p.m., with no one from the public present, the city council came out of executive session into regular session where a motion was accepted to hear the first reading "in title only" of "Ordinance 2007-2, An Ordinance To Provide For The Sale Of Real Estate Property Owned By The City Of Walhalla." The motion carried unanimously, and at 6:52 p.m. the city council adjourned.

The City of Walhalla, a small town that began as a German colony established before the Civil War, lies in upstate South Carolina near the Chattooga River, at the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains on a ridge between Cane and Coneross Creeks. Walhalla serves as the county seat of Oconee County, which is named for the Cherokee Indian town that was once located nearby in a small fertile valley at the foot of the Blue Ridge Escarpment. Issaqueena Falls, on Cane Creek just upstream of Walhalla, bears the name of a legendary Indian maiden who is said to have made a heroic ride to warn her white lover of an imminent attack by the Cherokee.

Immediately upstream of Issaqueena Falls lies a 439.6 acre tract that used to serve as the water source for the City of Walhalla, and which is the same property being considered for sale by the city council. To the south of this property, snaking its way up from Walhalla, lays an old abandoned railroad bed leading to Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel to the west. The Blue Ridge Railroad was a pet project of John C. Calhoun and was, for its time in the 1850s, one of the most ambitious engineering projects in world history. It involved opening a rail line from Charleston, South Carolina, over and through the mountains to the Midwest. The section of railroad from Walhalla across Stumphouse Mountain posed the greatest challenge requiring three tunnels to keep a maximum 6% grade. The tunnel through Stumphouse Mountain proper would have been over a mile in

length. When work stopped in 1861, workers could hear each other on opposite sides of the project, but never connected to complete the tunnel. If completed, this railroad line would have created a thriving trade route that could have changed history. But because of poor business management and complications from the oncoming Civil War, the project was abandoned.

Today, Walhalla leases both Issaqueena Falls and Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel, which are on lands contiguous with the watershed property, for a park. The Walhalla watershed property is leased from the city by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and is managed as game lands. Altogether, the watershed property, Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel, and Issaqueena Falls provide an important piece of Walhalla's cultural and natural history.

So when the city announced plans for selling the watershed property tract, it is not surprising that the public was concerned. On January 22nd, a "special meeting" was held by city council for the required "second reading" of Ordinance 2007-2, where it was passed unanimously as the first order of business. In a brief following statement, the mayor revealed that the city had received an offer from a developer to buy the watershed property, and "intends to re-build the old water plant, build quite a few houses, and wants to annex into the city." It was also



The mayor and city council members arrived to find a growing crowd of about 100 people carrying protest signs to save Stumphouse Mountain.

revealed that the city was "working diligently to get this sale accomplished." In light of growing public concern coupled with a plea from one councilman to "proceed cautiously," the mayor announced that a public meeting would be held on the following Thursday.

In the interim, the controversy grew as landowners adjacent to the watershed property revealed that the same developer who had been negotiating with the city had approached them about purchasing their property, as a part of the proposed development that would be known as The Retreat at Issaqueena Falls. The project had now swelled to nearly 1,000 acres. The developer's front company, Tri-State Assets Inc., was now working through a local realtor to actively acquire these properties. In addition, propaganda began to appear in the form of a flier that read, "If the environmentalists purchase the property, the 436 acres will become a refuge and Issaqueena Falls may not be accessible to the public."

Walhalla Watershed

People showed up in force at Thursday's public meeting, with standing room only in city council chambers. Those who couldn't get in watched and listened anxiously at the doors and windows outside. Inside, most spoke passionately about how much they were concerned about the fate of the property in the hands of developers, and others were angry that the ordinance to sell the property was passed without adequate public notice. Present also at the meeting were adjacent landowners who would be directly affected by the sale of the property. The mayor ended the public meeting with very little additional information, adding to the growing public frustration.

The city council planned another closed session meeting for February 1st to discuss the property sale, but the word on the street was that the contract with the developer was a done deal. Concerned citizens wasted no time organizing themselves, and planned a demonstration outside Walhalla City Hall at the Thursday meeting. The message that citizens planned to deliver to the mayor and city council was simple and to the point: "Save Stumphouse Mountain from development." They also intended to request a public meeting to ask questions about the proposed development, and to present other options that could preserve the property.

One option that materialized came on January 29th in a letter to the mayor from John Frampton, Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This letter said "Given our commitment to provide quality natural resource opportunities for the public, our investment in the property, and our priority of youth mentoring and recruitment for hunting and fishing, we have an interest in this property." The concerned citizen's group, which was now known as the Save Stumphouse Mountain Coalition, got wind of this letter and planned to propose that city council follow up on the DNR option at the scheduled meeting on Thursday.

This day, however, brought a winter storm causing the meeting at city hall to be rescheduled for the following Thursday, February 8th. This gave citizens opposed to development at Stumphouse an additional week to organize, but it also gave the mayor and city council, who seemed set on selling the property, time to crank up the pro-sale propaganda.

Several key factors fell into place in the interim. At another organizational meeting the Save Stumphouse group was joined by several local, regional and national conservation organizations from Greenville, South Carolina, including The Naturaland Trust, Upstate Forever, and a representative from The Nature Conservancy. The Chattooga Conservancy attended as the lead advocacy organization. Chief among the representatives of these experienced organizations was Frank Holleman, an attorney and board member of Naturaland Trust. Frank's family ties to Walhalla and passion for protecting the natural and cultural history of the area would prove invaluable

in the coming days. The newly fortified group penned a letter to be hand-delivered to the mayor requesting a public forum to answer questions about the proposed land sale. Assignments were given to key group volunteers to alert the media, deliver the group letter, and contact other concerned citizens to attend the meeting on the 8th.

The mayor and city council members arrived Thursday to find a growing crowd of about 100 people carrying protest signs to save Stumphouse Mountain. Many were interviewed by local and regional television as well as the print media that attended. As protestors waited outside, the city council met in closed session and after about an hour, 20 or so people were invited in to hear a statement from the mayor and to answer a few questions. The surprise of the night came when Frank Holleman delivered a letter to Mayor Bailes from Naturaland Trust signed by president Thomas Wyche and that said, "Naturaland Trust hereby offers to buy the approximately 440 acres on Stumphouse Mountain owned by the City of Walhalla for a price of \$5,000 per acre, for a total of \$2,200,000. The mayor accepted the letter and set a public meeting for Thursday February 15th, at city council chambers. Protesters left encouraged that progress was being made to pressure the mayor and city council to duly consider land protection options.

Nonetheless, Mayor Bailes showed up the following Saturday at the Community Center in Mountain Rest, SC, to answer questions about the proposed land sale and made a patronizing attempt to justify the sale. The mayor preached to the crowd about the benefits of the proposed development, predicting prosperity for Walhalla as a result of the projected tax revenue that the development would bring. Many left feeling that the dye had been cast.

It was about this time that the Chattooga Conservancy stepped into an important role in the effort to save the Walhalla watershed property. Everyone to this point had been asking questions about just who the mysterious developer was that had made the offer to buy the watershed property. An anonymous tip lead us to a Joe Simmons, who we reached by telephone. In an extended conversation, Simmons declared that he loved the property and promised to develop it to the highest environmental standards. He also revealed significant clues about his identify that would later become very important.

The public meeting was held the following Thursday in Walhalla as promised by the mayor. Nearly 200 people showed up to speak. All but one person spoke passionately for protecting the Stumphouse tract from development. Frank Holleman received a standing ovation for his eloquent appeal for the council to meet with the coalition of land trust organizations to explore options for conserving the watershed. The Conservancy's role at the meeting was to reveal the identity of the developer in hopes that someone would flush out more information about his

Walhalla Watershed

mysterious background.

The strategy worked. The following week the Chattooga Conservancy again received a tip in the form of an article dated April 12, 1997, from the *Palm Beach Post* and entitled, "Palm Beach man charged with fraud in real estate investment deal." The article included a mug shot. The information that had been revealed in the earlier conversation with Simmons about his home address, past land deals, age, and method of operation fit the Simmons connected to the Walhalla deal—fit like a glove.

Upon further investigation, the Conservancy secured the mug shot and alerted the media of the facts linking Simmons to the investment fraud. The headlines in the *Anderson Independent* on February 17th read "Developer's Background Questioned," and revealed much of what we had learned. As it turns out Mr. Simmons had spent two years in federal prison in 1975 for lying to federal officials about his participation in a shady land development deal. He was later arrested in 1997 for an "organized" scheme in Palm Beach for grand theft, securities fraud, the sale of unregistered securities, and the sale of securities by an unregistered agent. Simmon's method of operation in these illicit deals was to convince investors to give him money, that he then spent on a lavish life style, in exchange for promises of high interest returns.

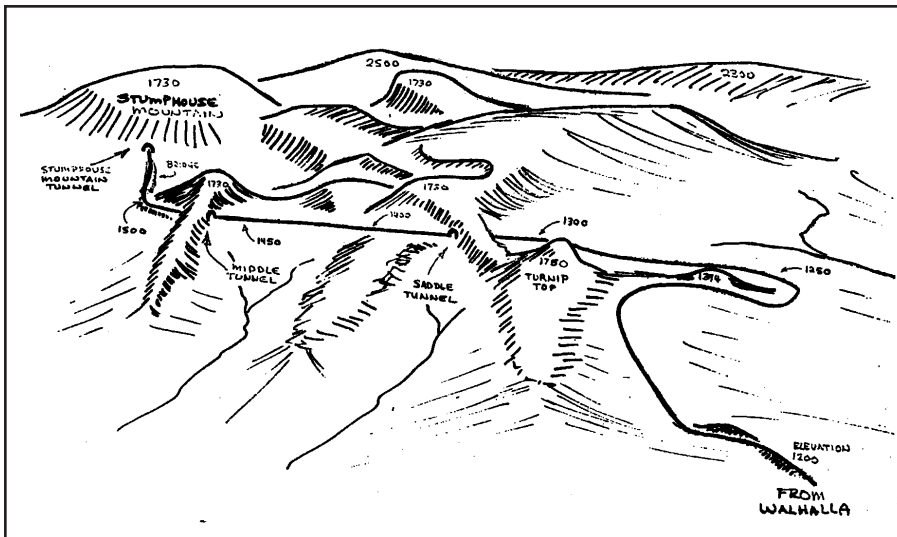
On February 20th, we headed to Walhalla to show the mug shot to city officials and the local real estate developer who was handling the watershed development scheme, since they were the only ones who had laid eyes on Simmons. Although officials would not admit that Simmons was the same man in the Palm Beach news article, they did say that they learned that the Simmons who had made the offer to buy the property had a criminal record. We were then given a copy of a letter released that day from Simmons' attorney stating, "Due to misinformation given to the public and the controversy surrounding the developer, Tri-State Assets, Inc. hereby withdraws its letter of intent to enter into an agreement to purchase property owned by the City of Walhalla."

Now, with Simmon's withdrawal, we had a much better chance to push for a conservation option to protect the watershed property. City council met the following week and again went into closed session, this time to hear from the land trust group about options to protect the property. Representatives from Naturaland Trust, Upstate Forever and the Department of Natural Resources were invited in to make the presentation. The Chattooga Conservancy that had been an original member of the conservation groups working on the options was not invited to participate.

At a briefing after the closed session, we were told that all possible options for conserving the property were presented to city officials. These options included outright purchase by Naturaland Trust with an agreement to transfer the property to

the DNR, and also the option of the city retaining water and timber rights with an agreement to place an easement on the property protecting it from development.

Now, city hall had several viable options to protect the watershed property. Nonetheless, rumors surfaced the following week that the council was actively seeking to find another developer for the property.



To the south of the Walhalla watershed tract, snaking its way up from Walhalla, lays the old abandoned Blue Ridge Railroad bed leading to Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel to the west.

It would be a relief to write a conclusion to this tale that declared victory for conservation and holding public officials accountable, but as it now stands, city hall is still weighing options for development of close to 1,000 acres that could destroy scenic vistas, pollute streams, sever wildlife corridors, raise local taxes, and denigrate valuable cultural heritage sites.

The Chattooga Conservancy has played an important role in organizing citizens and working collaboratively with other conservation organizations to fight for protecting the Walhalla watershed property. Our membership has shown up in force at all public demonstrations to call for conservation options to protect the tract from development. The Conservancy's staff and board of directors has made this effort of highest priority. Thanks to our membership for all you have done so far. Stay tuned, and be ready and vigilant. This fight is not over.

Trailing Issaqueena a.k.a. Catechee

Buzz Williams

Historians have argued for well over one hundred years about the origin of a local legend in upstate South Carolina, circa 1760, about a young Cherokee woman who made an epic ride from her native village of Keowee to a log fort on the edge of the Carolina frontier, to warn her white lover of an imminent Indian attack. Issaqueena, also known as Catechee, supposedly named the streams along the way according to the estimated cumulative mileage of the journey as 6 Mile Creek, 12 Mile Creek, 18 Mile Creek, etc., until she reached the fort that was approximately 96 miles away. The names of these streams from the foothills of the Blue Ridge to a small town known as Ninety Six persist today, and are perceived to be named so as a result of the ride of Issaqueena. The controversy surrounding the legend of Issaqueena has always centered on whether or not any truth lies at the heart of the story, for as any serious student of history knows, "the fine grains of truth" are often buried in legend.

This article will attempt to discover the facts of a similar event from the history of the Carolina Indian frontier that coincided with the time that Issaqueena's famous ride was supposed to have occurred, and to compare these facts with the legend. Hopefully, we may then be able to decide whether it is likely that a true event inspired the legend of Issaqueena.

We begin trailing Issaqueena with a snapshot of the South Carolina upstate during a time period known as the French and Indian War (1755-1763). During this war between Britain and France, the British colonies in America competed with the French, who occupied the Mississippi River Valley, to maintain the allegiance of Native American Indian tribes, principally, the Creek and Cherokee tribes that were the key to peace on the westward frontier. The main tools used by crown and provincial authorities to keep their Indian allies was to establish a significant trading network, and build frontier forts to protect tribes from raids by warring northern tribes. In 1753 Fort Prince George was built on the Keowee River, on the opposite shore from the prominent Cherokee village of Keowee. The village of Keowee lay about 96 miles north west of the edge

of the Carolina frontier near present day Greenwood, South Carolina, along an ancient Indian trail that eventually led to Charleston.

Even so, by 1758 Indian relations with the Cherokee were eroding because of constant encroachment by settlers into traditional hunting grounds. In the winter of 1757-1758, several Cherokee were murdered by whites near the Edisto River, and the Cherokee Chief Seroweh from Eastatoe (located on the Eastatoe River near present day Lake Jocassee) retaliated

by murdering two settlers in North Carolina and took their scalps. When Virginia traders retaliated, several of the Eastatoe warriors were killed. In the Overhill Cherokee town of Sittico on the Tennessee River, mischievous Creeks shamed the Cherokee into a counter retaliation and warriors reacted by taking 19 scalps in the North Carolina frontier, one for each Eastatoe kinsman. Both Governor Lyttleton, South Carolina Colonial Governor, and Little Carpenter, prominent Cherokee peace maker, tried to dampen talk of war, but by 1759 the young warriors were on the warpath taking at least three more scalps in South Carolina. The commander at Fort Prince George, Lieutenant Richard Coytmore, demanded punishment for the Cherokee warriors responsible for the raids.

Resulting events found the great warrior Oconostota and a host of other Cherokee Chiefs in Charleston with overtures of peace in fear of losing Carolina trade. The ambitious Governor Lyttleton immediately took all the Cherokee prisoner, and marched to Fort Prince George with 1,200 militiamen arriving in

December, 1759. Negotiations resulted in a promise by Little Carpenter to turn over the warriors responsible for killing the Carolina settlers. In exchange for restoring trade, Oconostota and three other warriors were freed, leaving 20 other Cherokee headmen captive to be released as the guilty warriors were turned over. Lyttleton's militia meanwhile was struck with small pox, whereby he retreated to Charleston leaving behind an untenable stalemate.

On January 19, 1760, Seroweh attempted to storm the fort, but the Indians were repelled. On February 1st, enraged Cherokee



Issaqueena Falls is located next to Stumphouse Mountain Tunnel Park on state highway 28 between Walhalla, SC and Highlands, NC.

Trailing Issaqueena a.k.a. Cateechee

ashed out against the Carolina frontier, attacking the settlement of Long Canes near present day Abbeville, and massacred 23 settlers including the grandmother of prominent statesman John C. Calhoun. The log fort at Ninety Six, manned by James Francis, a trader and captain in the militia, and other settlers and traders, were also attacked.

According to archival records, in late January a militia captain at Ninety Six named James Francis dispatched a fellow Indian trader named Aaron Price to Charleston with two letters. One was forwarded from Lieutenant Richard Cotymore at Fort Prince George and dated January 23rd, and another was from Francis and dated January 31st. Both letters advised the governor and his council of the dire situation on the Carolina frontier.

Aaron Price was questioned by the council under oath about the details of “the late behavior of the Cherokee.” He replied that the occupants at Ninety Six had “been informed by a Cherokee Indian wench who came to Ninety Six on Wednesday aforesaid that matters were very bad in the nation for the Indians had killed twenty four white people.” According to Price in further testimony, the “Indian wench” foretold of an imminent attack on Ninety Six by 500-600 warriors from the Lower Cherokee towns.

Other evidence exists from this period that refers to an Indian woman who came to warn the people at Ninety Six of an Indian attack. In the memoirs of Ann Mathews, who lived at Long Canes between old Fort Ninety Six and the lower Cherokee towns, comes this account of the Indian woman who “... disliked very much to think that the white women who had been so good to her in giving her clothes and bread and butter in trading parties would be killed, she became determined to let them know their danger, she started after night, when all was still, and walked 96 miles in twenty four hours...spreading news as she went.” (Tom Hatley, *The Dividing Paths*, Oxford University Press, 1995, pp. 89-90.)

Soon afterwards at Fort Prince George on February 16th, Oconostota lured Lieutenant Coytmore outside the fort, where he was assassinated by concealed gunmen. The remaining occupants inside the fort immediately slaughtered all Cherokee prisoners, triggering a frontier war that “drove the Carolina frontier back a hundred miles.” It was these events that set the stage for a much more vicious attack yet to come at Fort Ninety Six.

This was the situation in 1760, as we shift to the legend of Issaqueena and how this story might have been inspired by these actual events. The legend of Issaqueena in its more prominent form tells of a young Choctaw maid who had been captured by the Cherokee and enslaved at Keowee. The chief and his wife adopted Issaqueena and, wishing to give her a Cherokee

name, translated the Choctaw name Isaqueena, meaning “doe’s head,” into the Cherokee name Cateechee. As a young woman Cateechee had fallen in love with a trader among the Cherokee by the name of Allen Francis, the son of James Francis, a trader at Ninety Six. Cateechee overheard the Cherokee plotting to attack the settlers at Ninety Six, and slipped away under the cover of darkness to warn her lover of the treachery. The famous ride to warn Francis thwarted the attack, and soon afterwards Francis and Cateechee were married. Kuruga, Cateechee’s father and chief at Keowee, later kidnapped both Cateechee and Francis, but they escaped to a hidden camp near Stumphouse Mountain. While Allen was away in the forest making a canoe for their escape, Cherokee warriors found Cateechee and pursued her to the brink of what has become to be known as Issaqueena Falls. At bay at the edge of the precipitous fall, Cateechee remembered having seen a duck fly to a hidden ledge behind the falls. As the Cherokee warriors rushed to capture her, Cateechee jumped down and concealed herself on the ledge behind the falls. The warriors, thinking that Cateechee had leapt to her death, returned to Kuruga to report the event. When Cateechee was sure the warriors were gone, she fled to the place where Francis had finished the escape canoe and together they paddled down a small stream until they reached the Savannah River, and onward to the fort at Ninety Six where they lived happily ever after.

The task of connecting the actual events of the Carolina frontier in 1760 and the legend of Issaqueena is a subject of considerable investigation. The definitive work on the subject is, without question, an article written in 1960 entitled “Cateechee, Issaqueena and Ninety Six,” by E. Don Herd. Herd divides the question into 4 parts: “the origin and development of the legend;” “the origin of the name Ninety Six;” “the historical identity of Cateechee;” and, “the historical identity of Issaqueena.”

Evidently, the earliest written record of any story related to the Issaqueena legend appeared in Scribner’s Magazine in April 1881, 111 years after the attack on Ninety Six when the actual event was supposed to have taken place. The writer had heard a similar story to the Issaqueena legend from a buggy driver he had hired to take him to Fort Hill, the home of John C. Calhoun. Though similar, the driver’s version named a local historical figure by the name of Nancy Hart, a white woman, as being the heroine.

The legend did not turn up again until 1895 when James Henry Rice Jr., a former school superintendent at Ninety Six, published an essay, “Legend of Ninety Six.” Rice’s essay introduced the name Cateechee to the story as well as the names of Cateechee’s father, Chief Kuruga, and her lover Allen Francis. In 1884, Mary H. Leonard wrote Rice’s legend of Issaqueena into poetic verse, thus further romanticizing the legend.

Trailing Issaqueena a.k.a. Cateechee

In 1898, a Methodist minister named J. W. Daniels wrote a poem entitled "Cateechee of Keowee" that took the legend to another level of fantasy. The inscription in Daniel's poem states flatly, "The story contained in these pages is a historical fact." In his poem, Daniels introduces the name Issaqueena for the first time, no doubt to explain the dual tribal affiliation of the Indian maiden of legend. Daniel's poem is written in the style of Longfellow's "Hiawatha," though fraught with fantasy, and became the most quoted work on the subject of the legend of Issaqueena, and no doubt fueled the controversy over its origin with his misguided statement of factual content.

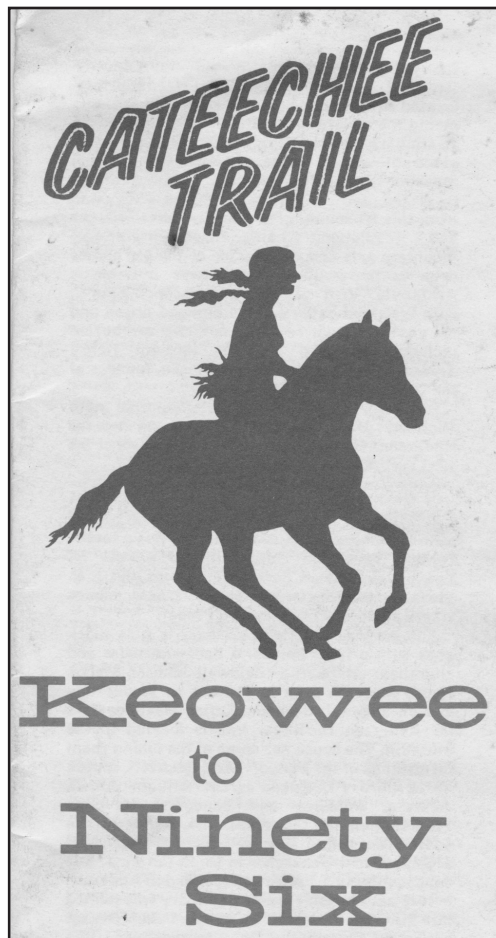
These aforementioned poems and essays have contributed the most to the making of the legend of Issaqueena/Cateechee. However, there were several other related works that must be noted which tell a different version of the legend that are reported to be of pure Cherokee origin. Both versions tell of a Cherokee maiden named Issaqueena who fell in love with a Creek warrior. The Creeks were bitter enemies of the Cherokee, so Issaqueena's father forbade her to marry her lover and decreed that she should marry a Cherokee brave. Issaqueena and her Creek lover fled, but were relentlessly pursued to the brink of a falls. Desperately, they leapt over the falls, choosing death together rather than enslavement apart.

This version first appeared in 1895 in the *Greenville Mountaineer*, in a ballad by Dr. F. Muench entitled "Lover's Leap," with no character names. Charles Sloan Reid published a more detailed account of the same legend in a poem in 1897 entitled "Issaqueena, Legend of Upper Carolina." Reid's source for his poem was a 98-year-old man named Henry Fricks, who had lived with the Cherokee in his youth.

In 1911, Harry Watson, the editor of the *Greenwood Index*, wrote a letter to Rice in attempt to find the origin of the Issaqueena legend. Rice freely admitted in his reply that he had manufactured the name of Cateechee and that "the only basis of fact for the story was a vague and floating tradition." In fact, extensive research by historians concludes that no record of an Indian maiden by the name of Issaqueena or Cateechee exists. Likewise, it seems that Allen Francis was also an invention by Rice, no doubt influenced by the actual existence of the real life character, James Francis of Ninety Six.

As for the question of whether or not an Indian maiden named the creeks on her way to warning settlers of an Indian attack, that seems to be the easiest to answer. Hunter's map of 1730 clearly shows that the creeks already had names well before the attack on Ninety Six, and that the settlement was named Ninety Six simply because it was 96 miles from Fort Prince George.

There is, however, a body of evidence that relates to the Cherokee culture concerning the role of women in Cherokee society that may have a bearing on the legend of Issaqueena.



"The trail Princess Cateechee rode that night is the one this map is all about..." as publicized in this DAR commemorative brochure.

The Cherokee culture was a matriarchal society with women playing a very prominent role in tribal affairs. The history of the Carolina frontier is full of examples of "beloved women," as they were known, who held important positions in tribal council. The most notable was an account of Nancy Ward, a Cherokee woman who spoke eloquently at the signing of the Treaty of Hopewell in 1785. Cherokee women were often the peace makers who held the final authority over the fate of captives. It has been well documented that Cherokee women warned settlers of imminent attacks by their kinsmen on several occasions, most notably at the siege of Fort Loudon in 1760. It is likely, therefore, in light of the circumstantial evidence, that indeed, a Cherokee woman did warn settlers at Ninety Six of an attack in an attempt to avoid bloodshed.

The legend of Issaqueena is more likely a product of a European misconception of the role of Cherokee women in society as mediators and peacemakers. The act of an Indian woman aimed at avoiding war at Ninety Six was therefore recast years later in a romanticized European version of the event involving a sexual tryst and an epic ride.

In conclusion, it appears that most of the legend of Issaqueena/Cateechee is simply a product of the romantic period of the late 19th century. However, whereas prominent 20th century scholars such as Harry Watson have concluded that the legend of Issaqueena is merely fantasy, I prefer to take the "grain of truth" so evident in historical documents and focus on the more noble probability that a very heroic Native American woman, out of love and friendship for both her own people and the settlers of the Carolina frontier, made a very genuine attempt to avoid bloodshed.

Woodall Shoals *Beautiful Rocks That Have Been Through A Lot*

Kevin G. Stewart and Mary-Russell Roberson

from **EXPLORING THE GEOLOGY OF THE CAROLINAS: A FIELD GUIDE TO FAVORITE PLACES FROM CHIMNEY ROCK TO CHARLESTON.**

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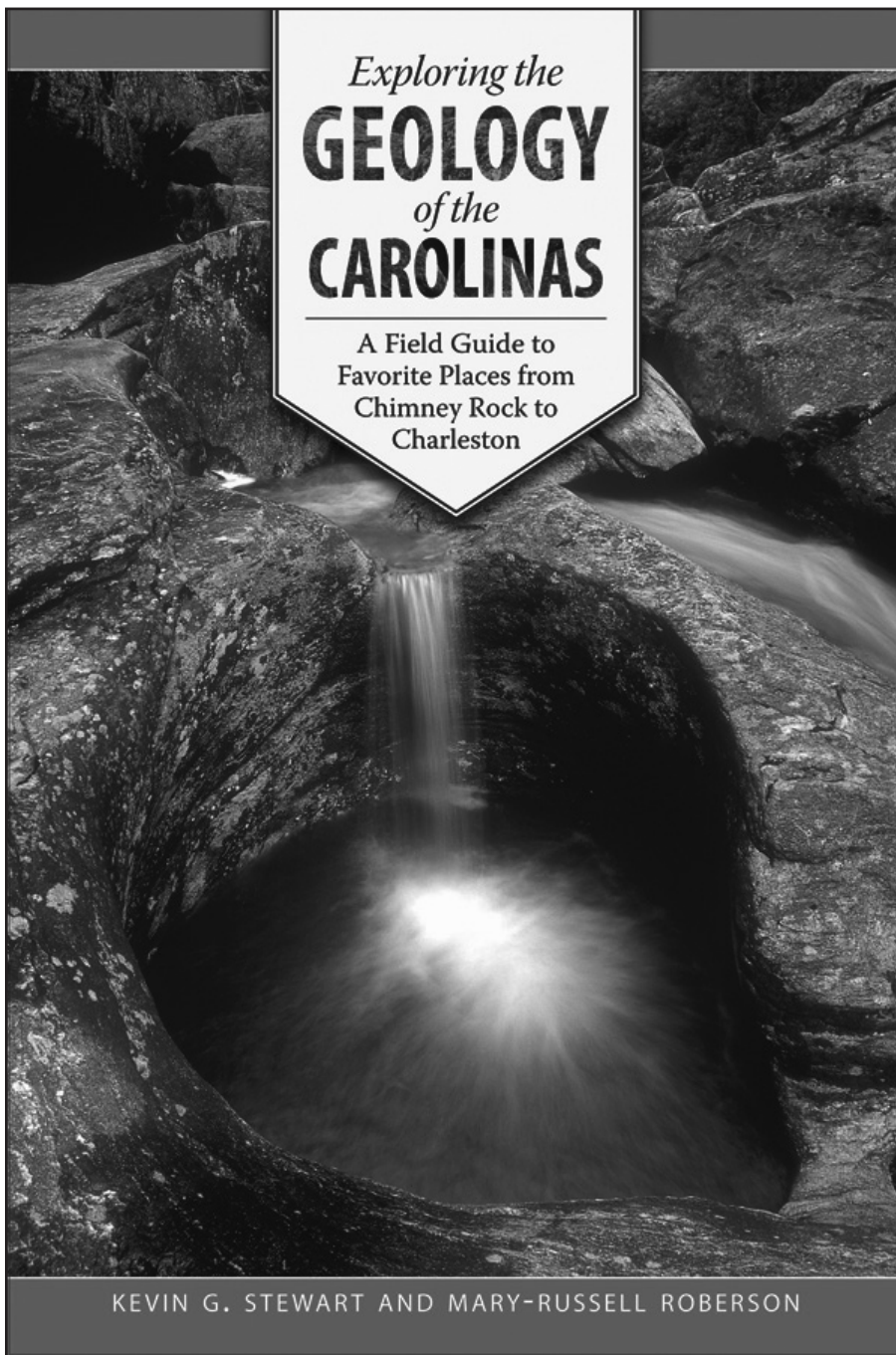
The Chattooga River begins in Jackson County in western North Carolina and then snakes south, marking the border between Georgia and South Carolina. Outcrops of metamorphic rock create rapids and waterfalls, making the Chattooga a picturesque river and a popular destination for photographers, canoeists, and kayakers. The Chattooga is a designated Wild and Scenic River, with the Sumter National Forest on the South Carolina side and the Chattahoochee National Forest on the Georgia side.

Woodall Shoals is on the Chattooga almost due west of Walhalla, South Carolina. It is a set of rapids running over and along a fascinating outcrop of rock that may contain a record—albeit a cryptic one—of three important geologic events that have affected the Carolinas during the past 460 million years. The outcrop is an 8,000-square-foot broad, flat area of rock in the streambed, about a quarter-mile walk from the Woodall Shoals recreation site parking lot. Once you get to the river, walk a few yards upstream, and you will see Woodall Shoals. If the river is high, some of the outcrop may be underwater. Apparently, years ago this outcrop was underwater virtually all the time, but then a Mr. Woodall dynamited the west side of the river to create a deeper channel for floating his logs downstream.

Woodall Shoals is a feast for the eyes of anyone interested in geology. You will see light and dark layered rocks that are folded and squished together like colored play dough. There are simple U-shaped folds and more complicated zig-zag folds. Some of the folds are smaller than your hand; others are bigger than a car. The tiniest wrinkles are called crenulations. In some places folds of different ages interfere with each other, similar to the way that waves in water coming from different directions produce interference patterns. Some of the interference

patterns appear as domes or basins in the folded layers. Also look for layers that have been stretched apart so that they look like strings of sausages. These are called boudins, a French word for sausages.

All of this deformed rock is metamorphic rock; it was the metamorphism that produced the layers, folds, and boudins. Metamorphism is the result of increased temperature and



“This book is a must for anyone interested in the outdoors of the Carolinas. Complete with a comprehensive glossary of terms, it is a perfect start for budding geologists of all ages, from 10 to 100.” --Orrin Pilkey

Woodall Shoals *Beautiful Rocks That Have Been Through A Lot*

pressure, and the high pressure squeezed the rock into the contorted shapes that we see today. At Woodall Shoals, there is schist, gneiss, and amphibolite. The rock that is mostly mica, with the flakes aligned into closely spaced layers, is schist. Where you see light and dark bands, the rock is gneiss. And where the rock is almost completely black, it's amphibolite.

The highly deformed metamorphic rocks have been intruded in places by some very coarse-grained igneous rocks called pegmatite. Pegmatite forms by the underground crystallization of magma that contains water as well as other elements and compounds that inhibit the nucleation of mineral crystals. In fact, it appears that most pegmatite magma gets significantly cooler than its freezing point before the mineral crystals nucleate (a phenomenon known as supercooling). This kind of cooling history tends to create fewer—but larger—crystals than the normal cooling of magma.

As on many other river outcrops, you will find potholes, those smooth, circular, deep holes scoured out by waterborne sand and pebbles. Some of the potholes may have water in them; others will be dry. Most will have sand and pebbles in them. When the river is high and flowing over these potholes, eddies cause the sediment to whirl around, scouring the holes still deeper.

Finding an exposed outcrop of 8,000 square feet is like hitting a geological jackpot in the Carolinas, where so much of the rock is covered by vegetation. What makes this outcrop even more exciting is that it contains a wealth of information—the folds and other structures can tell us about events that happened millions of years ago.

Small folds are essentially scale models of the larger structures in a region. This relationship is called Pumpelly's Rule after Raphael Pumpelly, a geologist from New York who first discovered and articulated this association in 1894. The rule says that the orientations of the small folds are parallel to the orientations of the large-scale regional folds. That's important because we can infer the direction of tectonic forces by studying the orientation of folds. Structural geologists even study the arrangement of the mineral grains of metamorphic rocks under the microscope to learn more about the large-scale tectonic forces that have affected a region. In simplest terms, the hinge or "spine" of a fold is commonly perpendicular to the tectonic forces that produced it (although with stronger deformation fold hinges can become reoriented).

Geologists have spent a lot of time measuring the orientation of folds, layers, and fractures at Woodall Shoals in order to find out more about the geologic history of the area. Between about 500 and 600 million years ago, these rocks started out as horizontal layers of sediments interspersed with an occasional layer of basalt from a lava flow. These layers were deposited on the floor of the Iapetus Ocean between Laurentia (the ancient North

America) and Gondwana (the continent that would become South America and Africa).

About 500 million years ago, Laurentia and Gondwana began moving toward each other, as if on a slow-motion conveyor belt. They came together in a series of three collisions. First, a strip of crust with volcanoes on it—the Piedmont terrane—collided with Laurentia. Next, a piece of Gondwana broke off and collided with Laurentia. Finally, Gondwana itself collided with Laurentia, creating the supercontinent Pangea.

The first collision, the Taconic orogeny, took place about 460 million years ago. As the Piedmont terrane approached Laurentia, it scraped off the sediments and basalts that were on the floor of the Iapetus Ocean and shoved them up onto the edge of Laurentia, like dirt before a bulldozer. These bulldozed rocks formed what we call an accretionary wedge, and the rocks of Woodall Shoals are part of the Taconic accretionary wedge.

The sediments and lava flows were folded, compressed, and stretched as they were bulldozed ashore. The sandy layers became quartz-rich gneiss, the muddy layers became schist, and the basalt layers became amphibolite. The rocks may have been deformed again during a second collision, the enigmatic Acadian orogeny. They were deformed yet again when Gondwana collided with Laurentia in the Alleghanian orogeny. Geologists who have studied Woodall Shoals have noticed that there are at least five different generations of folds, which they have interpreted to be related to all three orogenies. This outcrop is a good illustration of just how much deformation rocks can go through as a result of the movement of tectonic plates. In some boudins, you will be able to see metamorphic layers or folds that are oriented differently than the metamorphic layers or folds of the surrounding rock. That means the rock in the boudins has gone through at least two episodes of metamorphism. The first episode created the layers or folds you see in the boudins. The second episode turned the rock into boudins, but it was not strong enough to "erase" the layers or folds of the first episode.

Woodall Shoals may be a perfect spot to do geological research, but you certainly don't have to be a geologist to appreciate the place. Folds and crenulations, boudins and pegmatites, potholes and pebbles all have stories to share, but they are also just plain beautiful.

Location & access: Woodall Shoals is at the Woodall Shoals boat launch on the Chattooga River in the Sumter National Forest. This area is at the end of Forest Service road 757, a gravel road that branches off state highway 76, which enters the national forest from Westminster, SC, and Clayton, GA. Note that there are three different parcels of Sumter National Forest in SC. This one is located in Oconee County, and named the Andrew Pickens Ranger District.

Watershed Update

WHAT'S UP WITH I-3?

As you may recall, in August 2004 Congress appropriated \$2.4 million to study the feasibility of building an interstate highway from the port of Savannah, Georgia, to Knoxville, Tennessee. Georgia's Senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss introduced the bill asking for the interstate highway feasibility study, giving reasons that such a highway was needed to honor the 3rd Infantry Division known as the "Tip of the Spear" during the second Iraq War; to promote the efficient movement of troops between military bases during an emergency; to promote regional commerce; and, for safety. One possible route for "I-3" would be right through the Chattooga River watershed along the highway 441 corridor.

Yet, the fact remains that an interstate highway is not needed in the north Georgia mountains. First, there are no military bases in the north Georgia mountains. Second, our economy in the region is dependent on protecting our natural resources, not promoting highway-spawned "sprawl." Third, there is no way to build a "safe" highway in the mountains without massive earth moving that would also cause massive siltation into our rivers and streams. Finally, in a time when the war in Iraq is sapping money for schools, natural resource management, health care, and alternative energy initiatives, we simply do not need to spend \$2.4 million to study a highway that we do not want or need.

Now, and since the end of 2005, the expensive "feasibility study" for I-3 has been buried in the bureaucracy of the Federal Highway Administration, and a growing number of groups and individuals opposed to this unjustified expenditure of taxpayer's dollars have continued to spread the word about the I-3 interstate highway proposal. Meanwhile, due to chronic federal transportation budget shortfalls, the federal government recently asked the state of Georgia to return a share of federal highway funding to the U. S. Treasury. This rescission of transportation funding was required by congress in a recent appropriations bill, and highlights the need to stop wasting limited transportation dollars on studying unwanted and unneeded highway projects.

Please write Senators Isakson and Chambliss and ask that they zero-out the money appropriated for this ill-conceived highway proposal, and direct funds instead to programs that are desperately needed. It's that simple: if enough people make the demand, they must listen. Also, please take the time to participate in the upcoming special elections to replace the late Charlie Norwood, congressman from northeast Georgia's 10th district and sponsor of the I-3 legislation. The special election is scheduled for mid-June, with probable run-offs a month later. Learn about the candidate's position on I-3, share your opinion about the unneeded highway and the environmental destruction it would bring, and vote accordingly!

STEKOA CREEK & SEWAGE PUBLIC HEARING

On April 12, 2007, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division held a public hearing at the Rabun County Courthouse regarding a proposal by the City of Clayton to expand their wastewater treatment facility from .8 million gallons per day to 2 million gallons per day. This meeting was granted in response to numerous requests from citizens concerned about the urgent need to fix the City of Clayton's aged and leaking sewage collection system, which is the main source of fecal coliform pollution going into Stekoa Creek, a major polluted tributary to the Chattooga River. A vocal crowd attended the hearing and nearly all comments called for repairing and replacing Clayton's sewer system as the first priority for cleaning up Stekoa Creek. The outcry to withhold the sewage plant expansion permit until Clayton agrees to fix their sewage collection system was prompted by two years of water quality data gathered by the Chattooga Conservancy that clearly shows that the 60+ year old sewage collection infrastructure in Clayton is the primary source of Stekoa Creek's pollution problems.

During this two-year period of water monitoring in Stekoa Creek and its tributaries, the Conservancy has found four major sewage leaks. Also, consider this: Of the 192 water samples taken in the Stekoa Creek watershed during 2006, 73% were above safe contact levels, and 29% were in excess of 1,000 fecal colonies (fecal coliform concentrations above 200 colonies per 100 milliliters of water are considered unsafe for contact). Some results from water samples at multiple locations throughout the sampling period showed fecal coliform levels 40 times higher than the acceptable limits.

Concerning the proposed sewage plant expansion, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines clearly state that the effectiveness of any wastewater treatment facility is directly dependent on the integrity of its sewage collection system as related to the system's infiltration and exfiltration problems (*i.e.*, leaks). Please write the Georgia EPD today and ask that Clayton be required to fix problems with the city's sewage collection system before the wastewater treatment plant expansion is granted. *Send to: Director, GA EPD, 2 MLK Dr., Ste. 1152 SE, Floyd Towers East, Atlanta, GA 30354.*

CHATTOOGA HEADWATERS CONTROVERSY

The ongoing fight spearheaded by American Whitewater (AW) to open the headwaters of the Chattooga River for unlimited boating use continues to defy logic. Readers may remember the start of the current controversy, which heated up when the chief of the Forest Service upheld AW's 2004 appeal of the Sumter National Forest Management Plan, which excludes boating in the headwaters above the highway 28 bridge. The chief directed local Forest Service officials to revisit the question of

Watershed Update

not allowing boating in the headwaters. Yet on May 18, 2006, AW bolted in the initial phases of this analysis, and sued the Forest Service alleging that the “boater ban” was in violation of the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. AW’s lawsuit asked for “immediate and unlimited use” of the Chattooga headwaters. Judge William O’Kelly ruled in October 2006 that the suit had no merit, and sent AW back to participate in the Forest Service’s ongoing analysis to settle the issue. AW vowed to appeal O’Kelly’s decision but then suddenly dropped their lawsuit altogether, claiming that they were just trying to force the Forest Service to listen to their concerns. Wasn’t that what the Forest Service was doing when they initiated the analysis?

In the meantime, the Forest Service conducted “boater trials” this past winter to determine which water levels could be suitable for boating and also would not substantially interfere with other user groups. The Forest Service chose two panels of participants to make these important decisions: an “expert” boater panel made up of primarily AW people including the organization’s vice president, access coordinator, and several prominent AW members, and a panel of fly fishermen, many of whom support the “boater ban.” But what about everybody else who uses the headwaters area? Hardly a wink or nod from the Forest Service.

Surprise! The panel of boaters recommended that the upper Chattooga was prime for creek boating and could be run at even lower levels, regardless that during the boater trials the expert fishing team was still catching fish at moderately high water levels (2.5 feet at the highway 76 gauge). The boater panel made this recommendation for low water runs, even though for several months the AW web site recommended that the limits for running the upper Chattooga was from 2.6 feet to 4.0 feet on the highway 76 gauge. (Note: The “Upper Chattooga River Visitor Capacity Analysis Plan” prepared by the Forest Service states the following concern regarding possible bias by expert panel members: “... panelists reporting different demand or flow estimates than they actually believe because they think it will serve their advocacy interests in the analysis...”. Self fulfilling prophesy?)

What next? The Forest Service has just announced a new round of public meetings and workshops about the issue of boating in the Chattooga headwaters. The Forest Service’s website has this schedule, and can be found at: www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms/forest/projects/updatejune.shtml It is important for people to participate in this next round, and support the Chattooga Conservancy’s position of limited use of the headwaters to protect this unique resource.

Our take: AW is a powerful special interest that has the idea that Washington lobbyists, frivolous lawsuits, and slick maneuvering with the facts is more important than an unbiased approach to fact finding and balanced use to protect the resource. The Forest Service is washing its hands of the issue by hiring high dollar consultants to do conflict resolution between warring factions with almost total disregard to other users, biological analyses, impacts, and critical access issues.



Please write Senators Isakson and Chambliss and ask that they zero-out the money appropriated for this ill-conceived highway proposal, and direct funds instead to programs that are desperately needed.

GLOBAL WARMING HEATS UP

On May 4, 2007, the 2,000 scientists that make up the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report intended for use by world leaders as a road map to check global warming trends. The panel emphasized the necessity for immediate implementation of key recommendations to stem atmospheric warming linked to human activity. The delegates to the IPCC that issued the report from Bangkok, Thailand, also made it very clear that unless steps were taken to stem global warming, disastrous consequences would almost certainly follow. The report followed two previous reports by the panel that documented the rise in global temperature

and predicted the likely results including rising ocean temperatures, species extinction, mass human migration from affected areas, and unstable weather patterns that would cause drought in some areas and flooding in others. It also warned of dire economic consequences, dwindling food supplies, and increased disease. Recommendations to combat global warming include increased fuel efficiency, biofuel development and increased use of solar and wind power. The panel suggested that we need to implement these measures by 2015, or face the consequences.

Members' Pages

Many thanks to everyone who recently renewed their membership, joined, or donated goods or time to the Chattooga Conservancy. Your generous contributions will help us continue to work on all of the important conservation issues facing the watershed.

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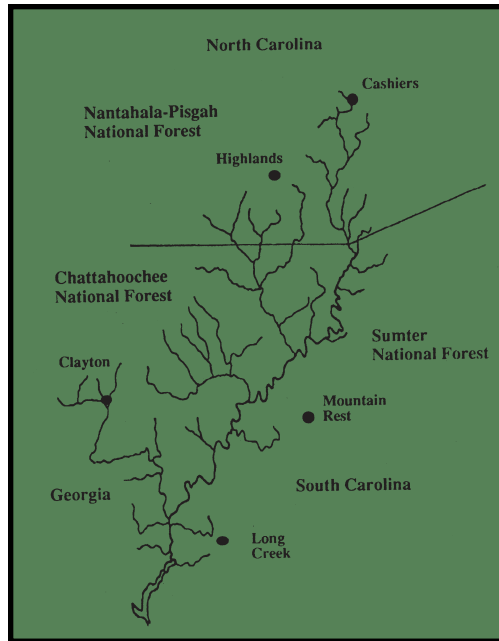
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- Educate the public
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- Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service within the watershed
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