



# Chattooga Quarterly

Spring ♦♦♦ 2011



### STEKOA CREEK PARK

*Remnants of an old grist mill site are located around these shoals at the Stekoa Creek Park site* photo by Peter McIntosh

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# Director's Page

*Buzz Williams*

Most Americans favored building more nuclear power plants before the dramatic earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11<sup>th</sup> that resulted in the partial meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear facility. Now, after the disaster, less than half of the country is in favor of new nukes. This new concern over the safety of nuclear power has put pressure on the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to reevaluate the status of nuclear power production in the United States. That's a good thing, because many important questions about the safety of nuclear power production have never been adequately addressed.

First, here are some of those questions: 1) Have we thoroughly assessed the safety of our older nuclear power facilities?

2) What do we do about the storage of spent nuclear fuel, which continues to pile up on site at nuclear power facilities across the United States? 3) How many of our nuclear power plants in the United States are either on or near a fault line, or are located in places that are vulnerable to other natural disasters? 4) What is the threat to these facilities from terrorist attacks?

Again, these questions have never been adequately addressed. Back in 1998, Duke Energy Corporation applied for a renewal of its license to operate the Oconee Nuclear Station, a complex of 3 nuclear reactors located just 20 miles from the Chattooga River watershed. Duke had applied for relicensing 4 months after the operators of the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Maryland had applied for relicensing. If approved, the Calvert Cliffs plant would be the first nuclear power plant in the United States to be relicensed for continued operation. This decision by the NRC, along with the relicensing process at Oconee, would set the standard for relicensing nuclear power plants in the United States. At that time, the Chattooga Conservancy made every effort to have input in this process, and to ask important questions.

In an article entitled "Nuclear Plants, Watching Calvert Cliffs License Bid," Washington Post staff writer Lyndsey Layton describes the outcome of our request for formal hearings on the relicensing of the Oconee Nuclear Station during the spring of 1999: "As in the Calvert Cliffs case, a public interest group, the Chattooga River Watershed Coalition [now the Chattooga Conservancy], petitioned the NRC for a formal hearing, and was denied."

During that time, the NRC—under great pressure from congress and a powerful nuclear industry lobby—had shifted to a "fast track" process to expedite their review of relicensing requests. Proponents of this move argued that the nuclear industry was facing serious competition in deregulated markets, and would not be able to make important financial decisions unless they knew if a renewed operating license would be granted.

Although the NRC did grant a 30-day comment period to the public, this period ended before critical documents addressing safety issues were made available. In fact, the NRC eventually granted renewed licenses for both Calvert Cliffs and the Oconee Nuclear Station before these documents were even completed. A statement by the Union of Concerned Scientists called the process a "sham."

***This new concern over the safety of nuclear power has put pressure on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to reevaluate the status of nuclear power production in the United States.***

***That's a good thing, because many important questions about the safety of nuclear power production have never been adequately addressed.***

Finally, to underscore my argument that the NRC has never adequately addressed serious concerns about the safety of nuclear power generation, I offer this troubling first hand account of an incident related to the issue at hand. A few years back, the Chattooga Conservancy and several other conservation groups were working on the acquisition of an important tract of land in the Chattooga River watershed. Senator Lindsey Graham's chief of staff from his Greenville office agreed to go with us on a short flight, to see this tract from the air; we hoped to convince him to talk to the senator about helping us acquire the property. On the way back, I directed the pilot on a flight path that would showcase the Jocassee Gorges. We made a circle back over Lake Keowee to get another pass over the area, and we were so engrossed in what we were seeing that we inadvertently flew directly over the Oconee Nuclear Station. The

senator's staffer, who was turning a shade of green by that time from a little too much "barnstorming," was never aware of our position.

Now, you may have noticed that Senator Graham has made a big splash on the news lately about his steadfast and continued support of the nuclear industry. Call me a "chicken little" if you will, but I still wonder what would happen if a terrorist managed to procure a "suit case" bomb and took a few lessons on how to fly a small plane, and headed off for Oconee Nuclear Station, just like we did with the senator's local chief of staff. Would the reactor vessels at Oconee withstand the impact? If anyone has a conclusive, peer-reviewed study of that scenario, I would like to see it. I welcome a rebuttal from the NRC, Senator Graham, or anyone who would like to comment.

# Chub Wall, Outlaw from Dicks Creek

*Buzz Williams*

The outlaw—a notorious desperado who had terrorized northeast Georgia since 1889—paused to let his horse he called “Doll” drink from the edge of the river. His plans were to slip quietly across Sandy Ford, back into Georgia from the South Carolina side of the river. It was indeed a desperate and dangerous gamble by a wanted man. When the time was right, he planned to cross the Chattooga River back to his old haunts on Dicks Creek in the Warwoman Community. Here, his family and friends would provide food and cover from the law.

The outlaw urged his horse cautiously into the water. A high caliber rifle lay across his saddle. He could not see Sheriff Luther Rickman cleverly hidden behind the mountain laurels beneath a big white pine only 30 yards away. The sheriff had gotten a tip that Wall would be crossing the river that night. It was about 3 o’clock in the early morning, dark with not much moon, when the outlaw began his crossing. Rickman waited ‘till Chub began splashing across the river. As the old sheriff told the story: When the outlaw would stop to listen, he would stop, and finally, just before Chub Wall reached the Georgia shore, the sheriff made his move.

Wall must have known he had fallen into a trap, and reined his horse to full stop just before he climbed out onto the Georgia shore. Maybe he had heard the snorting of the posse’s horses that waited in the woods nearby.

“Is that you, Chub?” the sheriff called out, with his pistol drawn.

“Yep. Is that you, Luther?” Wall answered.

Chub Wall knew he was surrounded with nowhere to escape. Rickman had timed his move just right. The outlaw was now across the river and in his jurisdiction. The story goes that after Wall was arrested the posse headed back to Clayton, but not before stopping for breakfast at a neighbor’s farmhouse.

H. M. “Chub” Wall was born in 1879 in the Warwoman Community in Rabun County, Georgia, where his family had a farm on Dicks Creek, near Sandy Ford on the Chattooga River. He was short with dark eyes and hair, and weighed only about

135 pounds after a big Sunday dinner. Legend is that he got the nickname “Chub” because he was no bigger than a small fish that lived in Dicks Creek called a creek chub. Chub was also “bad to drink.” He may have been small, but he was as mean as a tom cat and not at all afraid to use a gun.

Chub Wall’s temper was soon to make him a real menace to society. In 1898 at the age of 19, Rabun County’s jail records show that he was arrested for his first misdemeanor, and later the same year for “rioting.” A year later in 1899, he was arrested for “shooting of another.” No one knows for sure because the official records have been lost, but it is also known that

sometime during this period Wall shot a cloth peddler from South Carolina.

The incident took place at the old Tom Page place on Dicks Creek. Locals tell the story that Chub insulted the peddler, saying he looked “wormy.” An argument ensued that resulted in the peddler fleeing up a ladder leaning against the house. Chub emptied his pistol, firing at the peddler as he fled. At least one fatal bullet struck the man and he died soon after. Tom Page was the great uncle of Hubert Page, who was the City of Clayton’s Chief of Police in the 1950s. Page recalled that his grandfather, Sam Page, was directly involved in the

aftermath of the shooting and sat up with the wounded man, caring for his wounds, until his death.

Wall was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment. However, his attorneys produced a surprise witness, and filed for a new trial. The witness—a questionable character himself—testified that the peddler had threatened Wall with a gun prior to the shooting. Again the records are lacking, but local recollection is that Wall received a reduced sentence based on the re-trial. Supposedly, many locals in the Warwoman area signed a petition calling for Wall to be pardoned for the crime based on the re-trial.

But whatever happened, Chub Wall was out of jail for a period of time after the turn of the century, and working as a teamster in Rabun County. He didn’t stay out of trouble for long. An article in the Clayton Tribune dated October 13, 1905, tells the story of another “unfortunate shooting” involving Chub Wall. Wall had been hauling lumber across the property of a Mrs. Holden, who lived near the old Russell place on the Chattooga River



*Chub Wall, center, circa 1898-1902, in custody of local lawmen taking him prisoner, bound for Gainesville, Georgia.*

## Chub Wall, Outlaw from Dicks Creek

below the Highway 28 bridge. Mrs. Holden posted the land, preventing Wall from hauling logs across her land. He became enraged and tried in vain to locate Mrs. Holden, to confront her about the posting. He then went to the schoolhouse where Mrs. Holden's daughter was enrolled, entered the school, then drew his pistol and ran everyone out of the building. Deputies arrested Wall for the act and took him to jail, but the trial was postponed and he was released.

The first thing Chub did before heading home was to get drunk. On the way home he met his uncle, Augustus Wall, who supposedly had earlier refused to sign the petition to pardon him from the conviction of shooting the peddler. Augustus Wall, who was also drinking, exchanged "high words" with his nephew. Chub drew his pistol and shot "Gus" through both legs. Augustus Wall was taken to a doctor who found the bullet but pronounced the wound to be non life-threatening. Relatives say he walked with a cane and died of old age with the bullet still in his leg.

On May 3, 1906, a judge in the Rabun County Superior Court found Chub Wall guilty of assault with the intent to murder, and sentenced him to 4 years in prison. Wall was considered to be such a security risk that he was transferred to the Hall County penitentiary in Gainesville, Georgia.

In spite of the extra precaution, Wall managed to escape from the Hall County jail. An article in the Clayton Tribune dated July 23, 1909 stated that Georgia Governor Joseph Brown had issued a reward for the apprehension of Chub Wall, and authorized all officers in the state, civil and military to join in the man hunt. Meanwhile, Chub had gotten as far as South Dakota, where he was nabbed by local authorities who notified the Georgia law men that they had caught their man. The Hall County sheriff traveled to South Dakota and brought Wall back to the penitentiary in Hall County, where he probably served out his time for the Rabun County charges.

Wall must have stayed in jail for a while this time, but records do show that on April 24, 1913, Chub Wall was again arrested in Rabun County for assault with intent to murder. This time they sentenced him to the chain gang that worked the roads in the Satolah Community, just south of the North Carolina state line. Legend has it that his mother visited him while he served on the chain gang, and gave the guards a quart of moonshine. When they got drunk, Wall escaped. It is said that he even left a note for his guards that said they could find him at the Macedonia

Baptist Church down the road. Wall evidently had a sense of humor.

We do know that it was about this time that Luther Rickman was the sheriff in Rabun County. Rickman tried on several occasions to trap Wall, to no avail. In fact, the whole community was on the alert to aid in capturing the outlaw. One such story told by Hubert Page recounts the tale that several men from Warwoman Community surrounded Wall where he was bedded down in the nearby woods. One of the men, Marlor Speed, shot Wall, but he escaped across the river. There he sought aid from a woman

he knew in South Carolina, who picked a shotgun pellet out of his ear. Not long after is when Rickman received the tip with the information he needed to capture Wall at Sandy Ford.

Wall didn't spend much time in jail because the records show that he was out of jail again by 1917, when he was arrested for a minor offense, and again in 1918 for larceny, and again in 1919 for stealing sheep. But they couldn't keep him in jail and stories abound of his numerous escapes, including one time when he escaped and hid in a coffin until he could get out of town.

Evidently, it was in this period when Wall left Rabun County and fled to Florida. Old timers claim that he did return at least once disguised in a woman's clothing to attend his mother's funeral. Other stories told

that he was smuggling rum into Florida from Cuba during the prohibition years, and that he was eventually caught breaking into houses, and spent time in jail in Florida.

At this point, the shady trail of the outlaw Chub Wall fades away. Some say he lived to the ripe old age of 90 years. Jimmy Bleckley, the current Rabun County Administrator, whose family has lived in Warwoman Community since the late 1700s and who are distant kinfolk of the Walls, told me that he can remember that at family reunions, a mysterious man who always drove a Cadillac often came from South Carolina to these gatherings. His name was Paris Wall, and older folks whispered that the man was Chub Wall's son, but no one knew for sure. Even more mysterious—no one knows where Chub Wall is buried. Some say that his family kept his final resting place a secret.

Someday, a letter, a newspaper article, or an old photograph with some writing on the back will surface and fill in some of the blank spaces in the sordid story of the outlaw called Chub Wall. Until then, the mysteries remain. What we do know about Chub Wall is fascinating enough to make a good tale about northeast Georgia's most notorious desperado.

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# Biomass

*Buzz Williams*

A traveler headed north on Highway 441 in northeast Georgia might notice the white plume of what looks like smoke rising above the trees on the right side of the road just behind the Rabun Gap Post Office. The traveler seeing the plume billowing up behind the pine forest, having just passed the large agricultural fields where Osage Farms grows vast acres of cabbage, tomatoes, and other food crops, and past the groves of ornamental trees and shrubs at the Billingsly Nursery, could easily imagine that the smoke was of agricultural origin.

Across the highway is the campus of the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, a prestigious prep school with a storied history, situated on 700 acres of open farmland surrounding their campus on a large hill top dotted with gorgeous multi-story red brick dormitories, administration buildings, and teaching facilities. All throughout the surrounding field and pastures are red barns and various outbuildings that were used in earlier years to produce food crops, dairy, and meat products to supply the school's kitchen.

From the valley's lone traffic light at a crossroad by the post office near the entrance to the Rabun Gap Nacoochee School, a sign advertising the Dillard House is barely visible across a wide plain where the old Tallulah Falls Railroad once ran and carried tourists from the Tallulah Gorge to Franklin, North Carolina, until the 1960s. The same Dillard clan, who obtained the land from the Cherokee Indians after the American Revolution, still owns the land where they raise crops that supply a large, family-style restaurant that is frequented by the rich and famous dining along side the regular tourists who come to the north Georgia mountains to recreate.

The traveler would hardly suspect that the plume of smoke is coming from a 1 million square foot building hidden from view behind the pine forest, where the largest biomass electric generating

plant in the state will burn up to 50 tractor trailer loads of wood chips a day when running at full capacity, to produce 17 megawatts of so-called "green" electric energy.

The facility is Multitrade Rabun Gap L.L.C., a portfolio company of Leaf Green Energy Company, an equity investment company with offices in Washington and London. The biomass plant was officially opened on Earth Day, April 22, 2010, with a gala ribbon-cutting celebrating a complex 20-year, \$225 million power purchase agreement between a company called Green Power Electric Membership Corporation and Multitrade Rabun Gap L.L.C. for purchasing electricity to supply 38 electric cooperatives in Georgia. The plant is being touted as the first independent biomass plant in Georgia.

The biomass plant occupies a portion of the former Fruit of the Loom's underwear manufacturing plant, which closed in 2006. Multitrade obtained a \$20.7 million loan guarantee through the U. S. Department of Agriculture's rural development program to work with the Green Power Corp. to re-purpose the boiler used by the former owner to produce its own steam-generated biomass electric power.

Lawyer Charles T. Autry and Roland F. Hall represented Green Power Inc. at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and issued glowing



*An 18-wheeler is lifted by a huge hydraulic platform to dump its contents of wood chips at the Multitrade biomass plant in Rabun Gap, GA. At full capacity, the plant will burn up to 50 tractor trailer loads of wood chips per day.*

## Biomass

sound bites about the alleged environmentally friendly biomass plant. “It’s unbelievably clean for something that’s burning wood,” Autry said. “You really don’t get an odor or smoke or anything.”

Or anything? What the proponents of the biomass plant don’t mention is that something is still in the plume, something invisible, that may be even more deadly than other particulates that are scrubbed out of the boiler exhaust by an electrostatic precipitator. The invisible culprit not mentioned by the corporate execs and lawyers is CO<sub>2</sub>, the most harmful green house gas (GHG) known to be the principal cause of global warming, which in turn is fueling climate change.

The fact that emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> generated as a by-product of burning gasoline and oil to propel our cars, trucks, buses and airplanes, and from burning coal to generate our electricity, is so massive that it is literally forming a blanket of insulation around the earth, trapping enough heat to literally change the climate. Yet, up until the mid 1990s representatives to the United States Congress, principally from states that produce fossil fuels, were denying that human-caused climate change was a real phenomenon. That all changed when James Hansen, chief scientist at NASA, testified before congress in the hot summer of 1988, and warned that measurable climate change as a result of a build up of green house gases was now so significant that unless we reduced the release of these green house gases—principally CO<sub>2</sub>—we may face “catastrophic effects.”

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2009 finally issued a statement that carbon dioxide and five other GHGs “taken in combination endanger both the public health and public welfare of current and future generations.” The EPA cited a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, *Massachusetts v. EPA* in 2007, where the court held that GHGs, including CO<sub>2</sub>, met the criteria under the Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) to be considered “air pollutants” and thus subject to regulation by the EPA. This landmark decision initiated the beginning of a serious effort on behalf of the federal government to regulate GHGs, beginning with the Tailpipe Emission Standards for new passenger cars and light trucks, and

requirements for coal-burning power plants to control emission levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs.

The handwriting was on the wall. As a result, entrepreneurs, politicians, and scientists alike began to seek out “green” alternatives to fossil fuels. Solar, wind and nuclear energy production are the leading alternative energy sources most often mentioned as the most viable alternative energy sources. In addition, the prospect of generating electric energy from

biofuels, especially in areas of the country where the most productive source of biofuels—such as corn and switch grass in the Midwest and forest products in the west and southeast—quickly became a prime candidate for alternative fuel production.

The Obama Administration has endorsed loans for biofuel electric plants such as the one in Rabun Gap, through the Department of Agriculture. Tax incentives and tax credits are also offered by the federal government for alternative energy. Consequently, large equity investors such as Leaf Green Inc. began putting together deals to take advantage of these new incentives. In the case of the Rabun Gap biofuel plant, Multitrade will benefit from the tax incentives, and the 13 EMCs that purchase the power will get the tax credits, in a program that is sure to expand as soon as alternative energy production becomes more viable.

Alternative energy plants have their detractors, mostly the established coal and gas industries that are arguing to protect the status quo. Nonetheless, alternative energy seems to have a bright future. The forest products industry, for example, which is one of the largest

industries in the Southeast, and that took a big hit when the housing market went bust, sees biofuels as a saving grace. The industry bolsters their argument in promoting biofuel energy power plants as a way to utilize “huge volumes of dead and dying trees that litter the national forests” to produce wood chips for the biofuel plants, and claim that the thinning of the forest will improve forest health as an added benefit.

The forest products industry claims that electric energy plants that run off of biofuels will help solve the global warming problem because they are “carbon neutral.” This terminology simply means that the amount of carbon released by the biofuel plant is equivalent to the carbon sequestering and storage

***The Pinchot Institute predicts that “ambitious national and state policy targets set for renewable energy production, both for transportation biofuels and renewable electricity, could eventually double the current level of wood harvesting in the United States (from an average of 16 billion cubic feet per year to more than 33 billion cubic feet per year), with more wood going into energy than is currently being utilized by the entire U.S. forest products industry.”***

# Biomass

**Several states have halted plans to construct biofuels electric generation plants, until the complex questions surrounding the “carbon neutral” controversy are sorted out.**

capacity of the healthy forest that grows back after timber harvest.

The excitement generated within the wood products industry over wood biomass as an alternative energy source is understandable. A

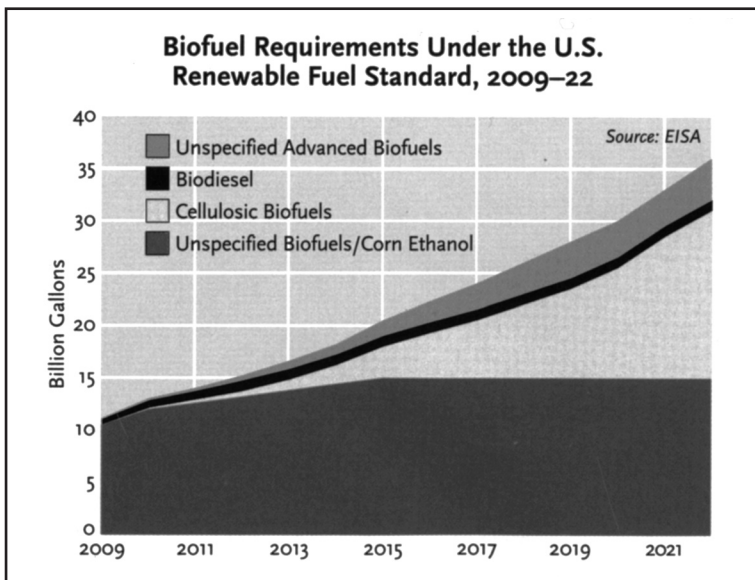
recent article in the newsletter of the Pinchot Institute, an organization that promotes conservation and sustainable natural resource management, predicts that “ambitious national and state policy targets set for renewable energy production, both for transportation biofuels and renewable electricity, could eventually double the current level of wood harvesting in the United States from an average of 16 billion cubic feet per year to more than 33 billion cubic feet per year, with more wood going into energy than is currently being utilized by the entire U.S. forest products industry.”

However, other studies such as those conducted by the European Environmental Bureau and Birdlife International found evidence that the conventional “carbon neutral” theory pertaining to biomass was seriously flawed. These studies point to a deficiency in the way the carbon storage / emissions balance is calculated by the carbon neutral advocates. These studies conclude that a carbon “debt” is created when biofuels are used as an alternative to fossil fuel energy production. In fact, the study conducted by Joanneum Research for Birdlife International concludes that the generation of energy from forest-derived biomass has a greater negative impact on our climate in the short to medium term than fossil fuel plants. This is because trees harvested for biofuels grow back over a period of time, while the burning of these fuels has an immediate impact.

Other arguments against the “carbon neutral” calculation point out that the sheer volume of fossil fuels that are required to transport wood by-products to run biomass energy plants are not calculated into the formula that supports the carbon neutral theory. Still yet, others point to the fact that biomass plants operate at 25-30% efficiency and vent 70-75% of its energy into the atmosphere as wasted heat energy. These and other new findings have cast enough doubt on biomass as an effective alternative energy source and as a way of heading off climate change that several states have halted plans to construct biofuels electric generation plants, until the complex questions surrounding the “carbon neutral” controversy are sorted out.

Meanwhile, the EPA’s effort to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful GHGs is coming under fire from the fossil fuel and alternative energy biomass industries, and powerful allies in congress. Several bills before the U.S. Congress today aim to curb EPA’s ability to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs as related to climate change. Legislation is also pending to cut EPA’s budget by billions of dollars, which will cripple the agency’s ability to regulate GHGs. Recent world disasters such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, that raise doubts concerning nuclear energy production, has further exacerbated the problem. Advocates of alternative fuels, including the biomass energy industry, point to the fact that if we shut down nuclear plants, we desperately need to move forward with plans to build biomass energy plants to offset these reductions in energy production.

The debate over alternative energy rages on. The plume of smoke rising up from behind the pines in Rabun Gap is a harbinger of radical change. At the least, it is a sign that the debate has now shifted from denial towards seeking a solution to a problem that now looms as potentially catastrophic if we fail to act. Take caution. There have always been and always will be the hucksters, con men, and crooked politicians who find a way to take advantage of a traveler at the crossroads. “You rally don’t get an odor or smoke or anything,” the corporate lawyer said. The debate over how we address the problem of climate change, that could literally threaten our lives and the future of our children, is certainly a complex issue. Maybe while we sort it out, we can at least address the obvious. There are simply too many people over-consuming finite resources. Let’s address that first, and until we establish the facts, based on independent science and good old common sense, we can at least take meaningful action by reducing our consumption while staying vigilant. That plume of smoke may be a smokescreen.



*The market share for cellulosic biofuel, which includes wood chips, is projected to have the biggest gain. Graph reprinted w/ permission from WorldWatch Institute*

# Watershed Update

## CHATTOOGA HEADWATERS' WATER QUALITY UNDER ATTACK

In a recent N.C. Supreme Court decision, the court slashed long-standing protections for trout streams by allowing a golf course developer to remove the forested buffer along a designated trout stream, while also allowing the permanent enclosure of a trout stream within a pipe. These activities were allowed despite a NC state law enacted in 1989 requiring "undisturbed" buffer zones for protecting trout streams and water quality. The court's decision leaves vulnerable miles of designated trout streams in the Chattooga's NC headwaters.

In another blow to state water quality protections for trout streams, in March 2011 the NC General Assembly passed HB 62 / SB 64, which specifically prohibits the NC Environmental Management Commission from protecting a recently discovered native brook trout population in a western NC stream. In sum, the commission was moving ahead to help protect the brook trout by enacting approved rules for enhanced water quality protections—but state legislators simply prohibited this action. By overriding the NC Environmental Management Commission, the General Assembly is damaging water quality, while putting the state in violation of Clean Water Act requirements and undermining NC's authority to manage its own, independent Clean Water Act program. Beware of a dangerous precedent!

## UPPER CHATTOOGA CONTROVERSY DRAGS ON

After more than 5 years of collecting public comments and spending at least \$2 million dollars of tax-payer's money on the process, the U.S. Forest Service has deferred a decision about recreation uses on the upper Chattooga—*again*.

The Forest Service reinitiated a National Environmental Policy Act public comment period in December 2010, citing "inconsistencies" in their decision-making process. The crux of the matter remains the same, however, which is: How to protect the upper Chattooga River's "outstandingly remarkable" natural resources and "wilderness experience," while meeting the public's demand for recreation use, in particular trout fishing and whitewater boating...?

The Chattooga Conservancy stands alone in proposing a compromise that would help protect the upper Chattooga as stated above, that in essence is: Use river water levels to govern competing uses; instate caps on numbers of boaters; create no new access; and, honor private property rights.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service recently stated that "Right now, we don't have a definite time frame for releasing what we call a pre-decisional Environmental Assessment."

## "RHAPSODY IN RABUN" AWARDED TO STEKOA CREEK PARK PROJECT *SAVE THE DATE! SEPT. 12, 2011*

Once a year since 1991, local charitable organizations prepare presentations for review by the Rhapsody in Rabun board, with hopes of being selected as the recipient of the annual Rhapsody Benefit Gala in Clayton, Georgia. This year 5 applicants vied for the honor. **The winning recipient for 2011 is the Chattooga Conservancy, for the Stekoa Creek Park Project.**

Please Join TROUT UNLIMITED &  
CHATTOOGA CONSERVANCY for  
STEKOA CREEK CLEAN UP  
Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12  
*Meet at the pavilion at the  
Stekoa Creek Park site*  
*for more details, contact  
info@chattoogariver.org*

In 2009, United Community Bank donated a 2.9-acre tract along Stekoa Creek to the Chattooga Conservancy, which we then donated to the City of Clayton, with a plan for restoring this section of Stekoa and creating a new city park for community use and enjoyment. Work has been ongoing ever since to clear the site of dumped debris and eradicate the jungle of invasive plants, to make way for walking paths, landscaping with native plants, and other improvements. Goals for this project include creating a demonstration model for restoring land along Stekoa Creek, a polluted tributary to the Chattooga. As the recipient of the Rhapsody gala dinner funds, we hope to complete the park project more quickly, especially the more costly features such as building a suspension (pedestrian) bridge over the creek, handicap access, and the renovation of a pavilion to be used for community gatherings.

***Rhapsody in Rabun will be held Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Rabun County Civic Center.*** The elegant evening will feature local restaurants serving their signature dishes, wine from local vineyards, live and silent auctions, and live music by The Tams, who are renown for their Gold and Platinum Record awards.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers to help with the many tasks for putting on a successful event, please contact the Chattooga Conservancy. We can also provide more info about purchasing tickets, or making a tax deductible donation to our Rhapsody event. **Please consider attending Rhapsody in Rabun's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala, to show your support for the Chattooga Conservancy's work!**



*Greta Landis and Meadowlark School students carry a clump of native river cane to plant at the Stekoa Creek Park.*



# Members' Pages

***THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to everyone who recently contributed to the Chattooga Conservancy. Your generous donations will help us continue to work on important conservation issues facing the Chattooga River watershed area.*

## **DEFENDER**

*Scott D. Hawkins  
John Izard, Jr.*

### **In Honor Of Matt Freeman**

*Caroline Freeman*

## **PROTECTOR**

*Dr. Graydon Kingsland  
Joan & Bill McCormick  
MoreSun Custom Woodworking &  
Designs  
The Lake Rabun Fund  
Jeffrey & Doris Muir  
Van & Cynthia Price*

## **GUARDIAN**

*Jim & Dorothy Corey  
Ann & Richard Metzgar*

## **ADVOCATE**

*Nanette Alexander  
Anita & Barney Brannen  
Randy Bigbee  
Alwin Burns  
Richard Cain  
James Callier, Jr.  
Mark Carter  
John & Gertrude Crane  
Sean Everett & Carol Greenberger  
Martha & John Ezzard  
Joe Ferguson  
Bill Goodman  
W. Ennis & Dru James  
Roger & Jean Johnson  
Leslie Knight  
Rebekah & George Krivsky  
Mary & Robin Line  
Tom & Collin Lines  
Lydia Macauley  
Lillian Moore  
Bill & Esther Noel family*

*Scott & Bailey Pendergrast  
Susan Posey & William Jacobs  
Zoe Schumaker  
Louis Schweizer  
Sean Sondej & Bronwen Dickey  
Tom & Tina Stults  
Walter Stults  
Mark & Evanne Thies  
Jody Tinsley & April Childress  
Christy & Chris Todd  
Mary Ventura  
Nancy Waldrop  
Steve & Pam Wawrzyk  
Douglass G Whitney, MD*

## **SPONSOR**

*Dr. David & Jane Apple  
Thomas Beisel  
Charlie & Kathy Breithaupt  
Mark Bulriss*

### **In Memory Of Bob Striggow**

*Larry & Alice Breeze  
John Hicks  
Kenneth & Nancy Jackson  
John & Maureen Organ  
Wayne & Barb Pailloz  
Lewis, Alagene, Robert & Lola Stevens  
The Striggow family & friends  
Chris & Christy Todd  
Buzz Williams & Nicole Hayler*

*Linda Dixon  
Sanford Dunklin  
Dale & Cindy Holcomb  
Mike Jones  
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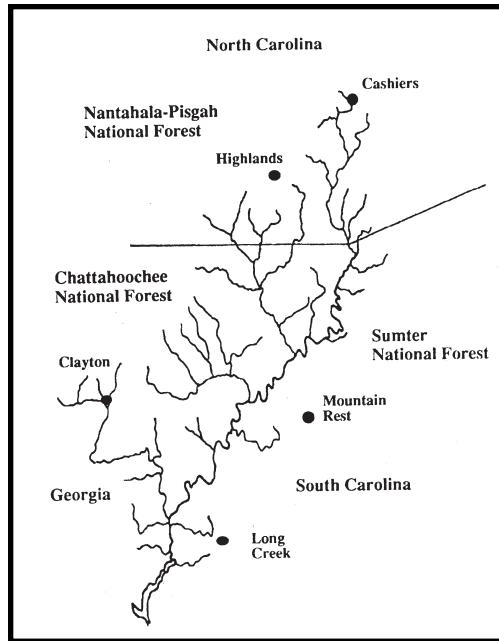
# Chattooga Conservancy

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## Mission:

To protect, promote and restore the natural ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed ecosystems; 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.



## Goals:

Monitor the U.S. Forest Service's management of public forest lands in the watershed, and work cooperatively to develop a sound ecosystem initiative for the watershed

Promote public choice based on credible scientific information

Protect remaining old growth and roadless areas

Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service in the watershed

Educate the public

Promote sustainable communities

Promote conservation by honoring cultural heritage

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