



Chattooga Quarterly

Winter ♦♦♦ 2012



“DOGWOOD ICE”

A resilient dogwood tree withstands a wintertime ice storm in the Chattooga River watershed

photo by Peter McIntosh www.mcintoshmountains.com

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Director's Page

Buzz Williams

This issue of the *Chattooga Quarterly* celebrates a new direction for our organization. I have decided to step down as executive director and into a new position as program associate. The board of directors has asked Nicole Hayler, our program and development director, to take my place. We are all very excited about these changes. It is with this last opportunity to write to you, our members, on this page, that I offer an explanation about why these changes are being made and what it will mean for the Chattooga Conservancy.

It has been a great honor to have served as the director of this organization for the last 18 years. It has been fulfilling, to say the least. I am retiring for two reasons. First, I am now eligible for Social Security and I want to get back all those garnered wages before the politicians in Washington waste it. Second, and by far more importantly, the conservation movement is changing rapidly and my personal tool box is more than a tad out-dated to do the job. So in order to meet the needs of the time, it is out with the Luddite and in with the savvy. Organizations that do not change with the times are destined to wither on the vine. We can't afford that; our work is too important.

My departure from the helm will not be accompanied by a recitation of accomplishments. History will tell what has been worthwhile. Nor will there be any sweet farewells *ad nauseam*. Rather, here is a tale to put things in perspective.

Back too many years to remember exactly when or why, I was walking down a deserted beach. A curious bird that I could not identify sat perched on a dune just ahead. It was a majestic raptor of some kind. I was drawn by its steady, fearless gaze, which burned a lasting impression on my soul. I walked slowly and cautiously toward the bird until within about 30 yards or so, it took to the air with a few strong beats of its wings. It flew toward the ocean ahead, and then banked into the crosswind and was down the beach and out of sight with such astonishing speed and power that I was left mouth a-gape, pondering what it was that I had just seen.

I looked it up, and found that the bird was a Peregrine Falcon. Further research revealed that the image of the falcon appears frequently represented in prehistoric artworks found in Native American archaeological sites from Ohio to Central America. The image is represented on copper plates and gorgets, where the distinctive mutton-chop facial pattern called the "forked eye motif" is clearly discerned. Researchers call this imagery a part of the "Southeastern Ceremonial Complex," where Native American ceremonial objects reflect a revered image. In this case the falcon, with its keen eye sight and blazing speed, represented wisdom and strength.



After 18 years at the helm of the Chattooga Conservancy, Buzz Williams is stepping down to a new position as "program associate," that will allow him a different role for focused work, writing and some well-deserved rest!

In 1994, when I was hired as the first executive director of the Chattooga Conservancy, I had an image of a Peregrine Falcon tattooed on my forearm so I would always be reminded of these qualities that I would need to help protect this river that we all love.

I have always sought wisdom and strength in attempting to fulfill the Chattooga Conservancy's mission to protect this last dwindling and very much threatened wild place. Now, as I step down to yield the reins to another, I ask fervently that you, our members, renew your support for our mission.

There is one more part to the tale. Biologists have discovered an interesting fact about the Peregrine Falcon, which is that the female is bigger and stronger than its male mate. I once made a few opening comments at a fundraiser, and introduced our staff. I introduced Nicole as the "real brains behind the scene," to which some smart ass in the crowd yelled, "Tell us something we don't already know!" As many of you know, Nicole, our new executive director, is also my soul mate. I know her to be both strong and wise, with a deep caring for our beautiful wild river. So I place our beloved river in good hands.

Meanwhile, I'll still be working down at the Stekoa Creek Park, and looking ahead to 2013 with a renewed commitment to making sure the *Chattooga Quarterly* is up to snuff, and on time.

Please see also page 12 for more news concerning staff transitions.

"Assisted Migration" and the Stinking Cedar

Buzz Williams

Torreya taxifolia, commonly named the Florida Torreya or the "stinking cedar," is a critically endangered evergreen tree that is endemic to a very small existing range in Liberty, Gadsden and Jackson Counties in the Florida panhandle, and also up the east bank of the Apalachicola River, occurring in widely scattered colonies within ravines and limestone bluffs, to about a mile into Decatur County in southwest Georgia, altogether a range of about 40 miles. The Florida Torreya, a member of the Yew Family (*Taxaceae*) and the only endangered species of its genus in the world, was once fairly common within its very small range. Florida Torreya trees were once plentiful enough that they were harvested for fence posts due to its rot-resistant wood, and were even used for Christmas trees because when healthy, it is an attractive evergreen.

The "stinking cedar" name comes from the pungent smell given off by the tree's needles when they are crushed. It has prickly green needles and thin, fibrous bark. The tree once attained a height of 40 to 50 feet, but is considered to be a small to medium-sized tree. The Florida Torreya is dioecious, that means it reproduces by wind-blown pollen from a male tree to a female tree, which produces cones with seeds. The seeds are dispersed by animals. There is also evidence that the Florida Torreya sprouts are stimulated by fire.

Populations were stable until about 1940, when the Florida Torreya began a mysterious and dramatic decline. The primary cause of the decline has been debated, but there is near-consensus that habitat destruction from clearcutting overstory trees, dam building, fungal pathogens, drought, injury from deer and feral hogs, and climate change are probable causes of decline. Consequently, less than 1,000 scraggly Florida Torreya trees, most all of which are sprouts from older trees killed back by disease, barely cling to existence.

The precipitous decline of the species has sent conservationists scrambling to find a way to save the Florida Torreya from extinction. The differences of opinion between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and a small group of avant garde conservationists on just how is the best way to "assist"

the recovery of the Florida Torreya is quickly becoming an important debate in a time marked by the undeniable phenomenon of climate change, which has vastly complicated efforts to implement recovery plans for endangered species.

The difference in strategy about how to save the endangered Florida Torreya centers on the discovery that the elusive conifer also exists in the Southern Appalachian Mountains, where

horticulturists have successfully relocated the tree from cuttings and seed. Herein lies the rub: some argue that the transplanted specimens of the Florida Torreya, like the one on the grounds of Biltmore Estates in Asheville, North Carolina, are doing well and producing seed is because they belong there in the first place.

Scientists have long recognized that many species that once thrived in the Southern Appalachian Mountains were pushed south by glaciers during the last Ice Age. In the case of the Florida Torreya, it was forced down to its present range by glacial movement during the last Ice Age, where it became trapped in the warmer "glacial refugium" within the rich, moist soils of the ravines on the eastern bank of the Apalachicola River. As the climate warmed, the Florida Torreya never migrated back home. Now, with the climate warming even further because of climate change, any chance of natural migration back to its original

range in the Southern Appalachians is cut off by a landscape where natural migratory corridors are severed by endless roads, shopping malls and subdivisions. Proponents of "assisted migration," as it is now called, argue that planting the Florida Torreya in the Southern Appalachian Mountains is simply a way of bringing plants back to a native range as defined by a much longer temporal scale.

The USFWS, the federal agency charged with implementing the Florida Torreya Recovery Plan under the direction of the Federal Endangered Species Act, has a different view. They define the native range of the Florida Torreya as that being right where it still exists today. The agency refuses to accept the idea of assisted migration to take into account the changing ecological dynamics caused by climate change, and the need for a strategy to define the range of species based on a "traditional range" viewed in the context of geologic time.



A Florida Torreya seedling is thriving at its new location in Rabun County, Georgia.

“Assisted Migration” and the Stinking Cedar

There are several reasons why the USFWS does not embrace a deep time perspective of plant range and assisted migration. First, the agency rightfully recognizes that the history of relocating species to a different place can and often does cause huge disruptions in the ecology of the relocation site. The prime example is kudzu, a plant brought in to control erosion in the South, where it has spread dramatically at the expense of native plants. The second reason is that climate change is still so politically charged that many seasoned bureaucrats dive for cover at the mere mention of global warming and climate change. Yet another reason is related to the latter: the federal government is short on money to fund the USFWS, and fears are that any venture into uncharted political ground and policy is liable to produce a backlash. In other words, it is much safer given the agency’s budget woes to stay away from progressive strategies that hint of controversy. Finally, conservation agencies are afraid that spending money on a controversial strategy for saving the Florida Torreya will sap money away from their charge to restore the species within its native range as defined by the USFWS.

Supporters of assisted migration point to the fact that restoring the Florida Torreya in the small range where it now exists will be almost impossible. The reason is that the species no longer produces seed in its historical range near the Apalachicola River. Phytophthora water molds and other unknown plant diseases have destroyed the reproductive capabilities of the Florida Torreya. Most remaining trees are small, spindly sprouts that will probably never mature to set seed. Those who favor assisted migration argue that planting the endangered tree several hundred miles north in a more favorable climate, away from disease organisms that occupy the Florida range, will produce trees that will have a better chance of survival. In fact, all Florida Torreya tree seedlings that have sprouted from seed come from seed sources outside its historic range near the Apalachicola.

There are other problems with the USFWS plan to concentrate efforts on recovering the Florida Torreya in its small, historic range in Florida. There are so few trees left in the wild that the gene pool is drastically small. Proponents of assisted migration point out that there is an urgent need to infuse the trees’ gene pool with seedlings from trees outside their range, rather than relying on cuttings taken exclusively from those few trees in the Florida range.

The USFWS is understandingly skeptical about the threats of moving a species to a new place. Fears of moving the

trees along with the diseases they carry are valid. Some even fear that the Florida Torreya will become just another weedy species that will compete with native vegetation in its new home. Those on the other side argue that the Florida Torreyas already existing in the Southern Appalachians have not caused a problem. They believe that the tree is so endangered that it is prudent to try assisted migration, which in this case poses minimal risk. Some even argue that if assisted migration is successful, the Florida Torreya might partially fill the niche vacated by the Eastern and Carolina Hemlock trees that have been killed off by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

The debate over the best method for recovering the Florida Torreya has moved the ball toward the goal of finding new solutions in a changing world.

Unfortunately, the desperate effort to save the Florida Torreya is only triage. Whether another Florida Torreya will live to set seed in the deep rich soil of the steep ravines of the Apalachicola River basin, or in moist deciduous forest of the Southern Appalachians, that will in turn sprout and grow into a healthy tree, is a huge uncertainty. At least those on both sides of the debate are working to save the species, and are both following the first, basic rule of conservation as stated by Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*: “To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.”

At the root of the simmering debate about saving the cog known as the

Florida Torreya is a much deeper issue that asks the question: Why is the Florida Torreya in trouble? Leopold also said that the greatest discovery of the 20th century was the discovery of the “complexity of the land organism.” Once we come to the conclusion that the woes of the Florida Torreya are a harbinger of much greater change in the future precisely because human activity has begun to literally alter the complexities of life forces on Earth, most notably climate change.

No doubt there are some who would dismiss the Florida Torreya as just another stinking cedar with no real economic value. Some of these people may even hold seats in the U.S. Congress. Some of them may even sit on an appropriations committee that thinks it is acceptable to slash the budget of the USFWS, to divert money to projects that pollute the earth. Saving the Florida Torreya should be a sidebar to a much greater effort to tackle the larger problem of respecting the complexities of the land organism as a way to head off more inevitable fights to save a species—one of which may be ourselves.

The differences of opinion between the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and a small group of avant garde conservationists on just how is the best way to “assist” the recovery of the Florida Torreya is quickly becoming an important debate in a time marked by the undeniable phenomenon of climate change, which has vastly complicated efforts to implement recovery plans for endangered species.

A Walk In The Park

Buzz Williams

Back in 2009, the Chattooga Conservancy engineered a deal between our organization, the City of Clayton, United Community Bank, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GA DNR), that ultimately resulted in the acquisition of a 3-acre tract located between Stekoa Creek and State Highway 441, to be used for a new city park. The property had been partially filled with large hunks of busted concrete and asphalt as well as mounds of bricks and dirt, which were dumped there to create a flat spot for building adjacent to the highway. Nearly all the trees were cut down prior to the filling operation, and the rest of the property was covered with a tangled mass of invasive species featuring kudzu, privet, honeysuckle, multiflora rose and poison ivy.

At that time the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the GA DNR had placed a consent order on the property, due to the illegal filling in Stekoa Creek’s floodplain zone. The consent order halted the filling, and in the sour economy it wasn’t long before the bank repossessed the property and offered it for sale. However, with no sales prospects, United Community Bank agreed to donate the land to the Chattooga Conservancy for a tax write-off.

We began working with the City of Clayton on a plan for restoring the ecological values of the property, and developing it as a new city park. We agreed to give the land to Clayton, if they would donate a conservation easement on the property to the Chattooga Conservancy; this would provide the legal right to ensure that the land would be managed as a park in perpetuity. Under these conditions, the EPD agreed to lift the consent order. We also worked with the city to obtain a federal 319(h) grant that would provide some funds for restoring the ecological values of the “riparian area buffer zone,” which in the State of Georgia is 50 feet from the water’s edge. Not long after the park project started, we also were fortunate to gain use of an additional 1.5-acre tract on the west side of Stekoa Creek, that belongs to the Georgia Mountain Market. The owners of the Mountain Market realized that a park adjacent to their property would bring them business while raising their property value; in turn, we would be able to use their large parking lot for an entrance way to the park. A lease was established for 20 years, after which it’s scheduled for automatic renewal. Altogether, these deals created the Stekoa Creek Park project.

The park project was an off-shoot of our earlier campaign to help clean up Stekoa Creek. As many know, for over 40 years Stekoa has been the most polluted tributary to the Wild & Scenic Chattooga River, and continues to be the greatest threat to the river’s water quality. One of the main reasons that Stekoa Creek is so polluted is due to the City of Clayton’s old and leaky sewage collection system, which follows the creek and periodically spews raw sewage directly into the stream. Leaky pipes also allow flood waters to infiltrate the system, that in turn can cause overflows at the Clayton Wastewater Treatment Plant, releasing more sewage into the stream.



The Stekoa Creek Park site was filled with hunks of concrete as well as overgrown with kudzu, privet and poison ivy.

Our campaign to clean up Stekoa Creek has involved a series of initiatives. We started by collecting water samples of Stekoa and its numerous tributaries every week for two years with the assistance of the Rabun County Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which helped pinpoint some sewer lines that were in the greatest need of repair. Then the Chattooga Conservancy helped the City of Clayton secure grants resulting in two major sections of old sewer line being replaced. We also secured assistance from a local attorney, who helped us convince the city to enforce their flood plain ordinance. Then we secured a federal grant

for the City of Clayton to promote best management practices on stream buffer zones, and to help residents near Stekoa Creek fix their failing septic tanks. We also worked with the City of Clayton to implement a water loss recovery program to reduce their water line losses from around 50% (one of the highest water loss rates of any city in the country) to about 30%. We also encouraged the City of Clayton to establish a dedicated fund with the recovered revenue from the water loss savings, that now has amounted to several hundred thousand dollars for future projects to repair both water and sewer leaks. So the good news is that our initial efforts have paid off; however, major restoration efforts and hard work remain to continue the job of cleaning up Stekoa Creek, which will require a wide range of community support to succeed.

Enter the Stekoa Creek Park project, that is serving to directly involve the community with restoring the ecological values of a section of Stekoa Creek to create a new city park, while perhaps raising awareness about the ecological and economic values of protecting and restoring our natural resources.

A Walk in the Park

Our development plan for the park calls for constructing a botanical garden featuring a landscape of native plant communities in their natural habitats, connected by a trail system that includes benches, outdoor art works, a playground area, a foot bridge across Stekoa Creek, and a community pavilion with a fireplace. The park will also include a “rain garden” for cleansing storm water runoff from Hwy. 441, and possibly a 40-yard archery target range. Much of the park will be accessible by the physically impaired. The park venue will also reflect the cultural history of the area, as it relates to conservation.

Our initial hunch that the community would embrace the Stekoa Creek Park project has proved true: hundreds of native plants have been donated and planted at the park; many citizens, students and community groups have volunteered their time to work at the park; and, numerous fundraisers for creating the park have benefited from widespread community support, which has enabled tremendous progress. **However, additional funding is now needed, to complete the project. Please contact us for more information, and to contribute to the Stekoa Creek Park.**

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE STEKOA CREEK PARK PROJECT, AND AN UPDATE ON OUR PROGRESS.



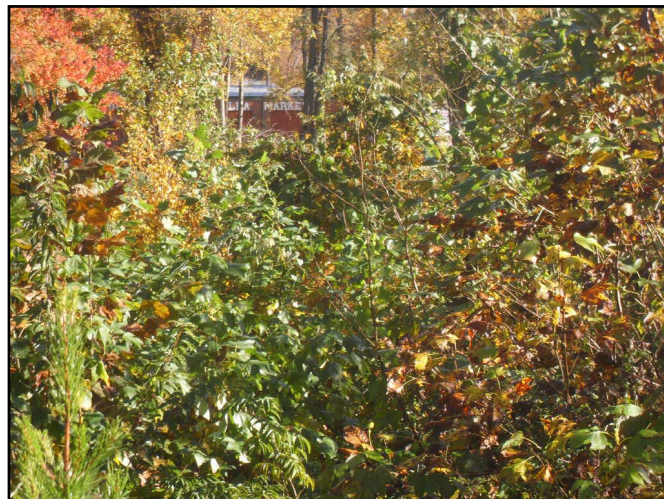
A jungle of kudzu and privet once covered the park site; it's been mostly eradicated by axe and shovel, to avoid the use of herbicides.



Bricks and rocks dumped on the park site were cleaned, sorted and recycled for building materials by Rabun Gap students.



A timber frame arbor and raised-bed wildflower garden now stand next to Hwy. 441, right where the students once labored.



A wall of kudzu, privet, honeysuckle and briars was so dense it obscured the large GA Mtn. Market building at the park's edge.



The view towards the Mtn. Market now shows a section of the trail, bordered by plantings of rhododendrons, azaleas and other natives.

A Walk in the Park



Mounds of concrete dumped on the park site were unearthed and laboriously cut into manageable blocks for building materials.



Steps and a retaining wall were constructed from the salvaged concrete, to stabilize a large mound of fill dirt next to Hwy. 441.



Students from Meadowlark School transplanted native river cane into the riparian zone next to Stekoa Creek.



River birch, sycamore, magnolia and cedar trees have been planted next to the river cane, in an area once covered by privet and kudzu.



Georgia Aster, Fraser's Loosestrife and Alabama Warbonnet are among the rare plants being cultivated at the park.



Construction is underway of a community pavilion, that will be a replica of a local structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

A Walk in the Park: “Dad Brewer’s Grist Mill”

Carolyn Carnes Brewer

My husband’s father Jarrell H. Brewer was working in Atlanta when he met Dick’s mother, Grace Hamby Brewer, from Clayton. She was a school teacher in Raymon near West Point, Georgia, where she boarded with the Brewer family. Mr. Brewer, fondly known to me in later years as Dad Brewer, ran a water wheel grist mill on the back waters of Stekoa Creek, which flows along and near to the Highway 441 by-pass in the town of Clayton.



A rapid at Stekoa Creek Park marks the area where Jarrell Brewer’s water wheel grist mill was located.

In the early 1930s he heard that Austin Carnes, a farmer in Wolffork Valley, had a field of corn to sell. Back in those days, people got up before the crack of dawn to start their daily chores. Mr. Brewer hitched up a team of mules to his wagon at 5:30 a.m. and set out on the approximate two-hour trip from Clayton to Wolffork Valley to purchase corn from Mr. Carnes. Mr. Brewer arrived at the Carnes home as they were eating breakfast. When he returned to his home in Clayton, my husband Richard remembers him telling of his journey to the Carnes home, where he saw more children in one house than he had ever seen at one home before in his entire life. I am thinking there were probably nine or ten of my parent’s twelve children still living at home in the early thirties. There may have been some grandchildren there also, as they visited a lot when I was a child. I am sure, though, that Dad Brewer was invited to eat breakfast with us.

He purchased a wagon load of corn, still in the shucks, and hauled it back to his mill in Clayton. There he shucked and shelled the corn off of the cob. Then he would grind the corn into corn meal and grits, measure them into paper bags each holding a peck, and sell those to the public when they came by wanting either or both for the big price of 25 cents per bag.

Grocery store owners and farmers in the area would bring their shelled corn to Dad Brewer to grind for them. After grinding the meal and/or grits, they would be placed into peck bags and sealed either with glue on paper or tied with a string. Richard was at a very young age, but he was the delivery boy who took the finished products to the store owners, ready for sale. He remembered how proud he was as little boy to drive the delivery wagon pulled by his favorite mule named Belle.

Dad Brewer also ground wheat and rye into flour for the public. This flour was ground in the same way as corn, but required longer grinding to make it the correct texture. Richard remembers his mother cooking wheat and rye flour into bread, and mixing each with white flour.

In the early days of Rabun County, the only employment was either farming, logging or making moonshine. Corn was one of the main ingredients used in making moonshine. The bootleggers would take shelled corn, place it in a flour sack tied with a string, and put it down into a creek for the corn to sprout. If the water was swift, the sack would have a longer string tied onto the bag and then tied around a bush to keep it from floating down the creek.

When the corn had sprouted enough, it was taken out of the water and spread thinly into shallow containers to dry. After drying, the corn was taken to the mill and ground into malt, which was added to the other ingredients to make the moonshine. All of this

procedure was time consuming, and Dad Brewer was paid cash for his work. He would also have to grind a half-bushel of dry corn after the sprouted corn had been ground. This was the way he cleaned the grinder. The bootleggers would either bring this half bushel of corn for cleaning, or pay Dad Brewer extra for the task. The cleaning corn could only be used to feed the hogs or cattle, as it did not have a good flavor.



Two large, notched timbers embedded in Stekoa Creek are the remains of the mill pond dam.

When people took corn to the mill to be ground, a bushel would be poured into the hopper. Dad Brewer had a measuring box, and he would take out two of these boxes-full, which totaled one-eighth of a bushel. The eighth was called a toll, and this was his pay for grinding the corn. He kept a large barrel there to pour his toll corn into. He ground this corn separately, and packaged it in the peck bags and sold those to his customers. This toll is the reason that a bushel of shelled corn weighed 56 pounds, and a bushel of corn meal weighed 48 pounds. We do not have the price of corn in the shucks during those days, but the going price for a bushel of shelled corn was \$1.00, which was also considered as a working man’s wage.

Editor’s note: While cleaning up the Stekoa Creek Park tract we noticed the large timbers (above) in the creek, which revealed this interesting local history about Dad Brewer’s grist mill.

John Bachman, Naturalist and Social Activist

Buzz Williams

The Bachman’s Warbler, a rare migratory bird that passes through the Blue Ridge Mountains in the spring and fall, was named for a man whose fascinating life history is as elusive as the little warbler that bears his name. The Reverend John Bachman, pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church in Charleston, South Carolina, during the early 1800s, was an accomplished naturalist known mostly for his collaborations with the flamboyant John James Audubon on his book, *The Viviporous Quadrupeds of North America*. On a recent trip to Charleston, I conducted sufficient research to discover in the shadow of his more famous friend, a man who in his own right deserves a place in history as one of the most important forefathers of modern ecology.

Born on February 4, 1790, in the little town of Rhinebeck in upstate New York, John Bachman was the youngest son of Jacob Bachman, who fought in the Revolutionary War, and a loving mother whose maiden name was Eva Shop. His older siblings were Jacob and Henry, and a sister, Eva. His father was a farmer and a member of the Lutheran Church. One of his ancestors was a native of Switzerland who immigrated to America, and has been reported to have been the private secretary of William Penn. His mother’s ancestors were from Germany.

It is said that he loved to listen to his father tell stories of his family history. Stories of his forefather, the able secretary of William Penn, who was an educated man of peace, no doubt influenced his later choice in life to become a man of the cloth. Bachman would become one of the most influential clergymen of his time.

One of his favorite tales was of a courageous kinsman, Lieutenant-General Bachman of the elite Swiss Guard, who was killed along with 28 comrades in defense of King Louis XVI of France when a mob attacked the palace of Tuileries in 1792. The event inspired the sculpture, “Lion of Lucerne,” carved in a mountain side; the monument depicts a dying lion above which is inscribed “Helvetiorum Fidei Ac Virtuti,” translated, “To the loyalty and bravery of the Swiss.” These traits too, would later mark his character.

John Bachman often heard his father tell stories about George Washington and his prowess as a hunter and outdoors man. Strong, athletic and “buoyant of spirit,” he would become an

avid outdoorsman and marksman as well. Bachman was often scolded for showing up late for dinner after a day in the woods with his fateful companion, a slave named George, who helped him trap and skin beavers to sell to buy books. His outdoor skills and knowledge paid off when, as a young adolescent, he was chosen to accompany a “Mr. Knickerbocker” and work as a secretary on a United States Exploring Expedition on a good will trip to meet with representatives of the Oneida Indian Tribe.

In 1802 at the age of 12, Bachman moved to Philadelphia to attend school. It was during this period that the young Bachman met a man that would be a strong influence on the course of his life. One day while he was visiting the gardens of the famous naturalist John Bartram, he was introduced to Alexander Wilson,

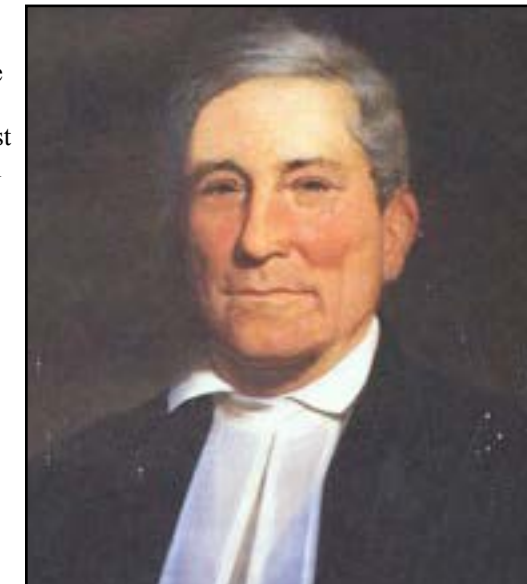
whose volume *American Ornithology* was a landmark work in natural science. Wilson introduced him to many experts in natural history, including Prussian botanist and explorer Friedrich Heinrich Alexander, also known as Baron von Humboldt. There is no doubt that the liaison with these influential scientists inspired Bachman’s interest in natural history.

Bachman was 16 years old when he began having respiratory ailments. He was forced to return to his family home in New York, where he was bedridden for 18 months. He soon recovered, and in his new home environment John Bachman began to reassess his career options. At first he decided to study law, but the strong Lutheran beliefs of his father convinced him to abandon law and study for the ministry.

In December of 1809, at the age of 19, Bachman moved back to the Philadelphia area and to Milestown, PA, where he taught Latin, French and German at Elwood School. One year later, he left Elwood School to accept a position teaching at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, and to further his studies for the ministry. In 1814, the same year that Andrew Jackson fought at the famous Battle of New Orleans, John Bachman was ordained as a Lutheran Minister by the New York Ministerium.

The St. John’s Lutheran Church in Charleston, South Carolina, needed a pastor, and Bachman was qualified and available. With the blessings of church officials, Bachman accepted the position, and by January of 1815 he arrived in Charleston. He would remain there for the next 56 years.

In 1816, Bachman married Harriet Martin, the granddaughter of Reverend John Nicolas Martin, one of the early pastors



Reverend John Bachman (1790-1874) was an accomplished naturalist as well as an outspoken advocate for the civil rights of African Americans.

John Bachman, Naturalist and Social Activist

of St. John's Lutheran Church. He spent the next 15 years concentrating on his pastoral duties at St. John's. He broke new ground as a humanitarian during these years, when he fought for and won the rights to baptize and commune freed black slaves, and to set aside and expand the vestry for African-American worshippers. In 1824, Bachman was elected as president of the Lutheran Synod of South Carolina.

In mid-October 1831, John Bachman was introduced to a man that would change his life in a dramatic way. The famous artist John James Audubon was in Charleston to solicit subscriptions to his book, *Birds of North America*, when he met Bachman while walking down a street in town.

Although it was a chance meeting, there is reason to believe that Audubon had probably already heard of John Bachman. Charleston at that time was one of the centers for natural history studies in the western hemisphere. Located near the still-wild and biologically rich ecosystems of the Southeast, Bachman had joined other prominent academics from the Medical College of Charleston to form a group called the "Circle of Naturalists." The two men of uncommon mutual interests became friends for life, and Audubon spent a month with the Bachmans in their home on Rutledge Avenue immediately after their chance meeting.

The two men were both experts in the study of natural history, each with their own focus. Audubon was a painter, but it was Bachman who knew more about the how plants and animals relate to their surrounding habitats. The complimentary skills of these two men resulted in Audubon's second major work entitled *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. Audubon painted the animals, and Bachman wrote the scientific text that described such animals as the Musk Ox and American Bison, along with many more common species such as the Eastern Grey Squirrel.

The friendship between Bachman and Audubon extended to the relationships that flowered between members of both families. Audubon taught Bachman's sister-in-law, Maria, how to paint. Her work was so superior that Audubon allowed her to contribute background paintings for both *Birds of North America* and *Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. Two of Bachman's daughters married sons of Audubon.

John Bachman worked diligently with Audubon, and wrote many essays and gave lectures on natural history. He frequently published papers on natural history for the South Carolina Medical Journal. His essay, "Migration of the Birds of North

America," was a cutting edge work that reveals his keen powers of observation. Bachman was also a founding member of the South Carolina State Horticultural Society.

In 1846, Bachman's wife, Harriet, died of tuberculosis. Their marriage had produced 14 children, 9 of which survived. Two years later Bachman married Harriet's sister, Maria.

In 1856, Bachman was instrumental in founding Newberry College, a theological seminary, college and prep school, and served as its first board of trustees president. Newberry College sustained much damage during the Civil War, and was relocated to Walhalla, South Carolina, in 1868. No doubt Walhalla, an upstate German settlement, was chosen as a relocation site because of the strong connection Bachman had with the German Friendly Society in Charleston. Newberry College was relocated to Newberry, SC, in 1877.

In 1860, South Carolina was the first state to secede from the Union. In December of that year, Bachman was invited to say an opening prayer at the meeting when South Carolina passed the Ordinance of Secession. Yet, Bachman continued to argue for the rights of black Americans. One of his scientific papers, "Characteristics of Genera and Species, as Applicable to the Doctrine of Unity in the Human Race," (1864) put forth the idea that a slave was the same species as his master. Thus, in his own way, Bachman argued against slavery.

Bachman spent the years during the Civil War caring for the sick and elderly. When Sherman marched through South Carolina at the end of the war, Bachman fled Charleston with the intent of relocating to Newberry College, but was captured by Sherman's army. He was severely beaten and his papers were destroyed. He died in Charleston on February 24, 1874, from paralysis caused by the beating he had received by the Union troops.

Dr. John Bachman has never been fully recognized for his great contributions to scientific and humanitarian contributions to society. A recent symposium held at Newberry College to honor the achievements of John Bachman revealed many interesting facts about the man who aforeto has always been noted as the friend of John James Audubon. In many ways, Bachman's work delved deeper into the life of a species, including humans, than many of his contemporaries. His work helped set the tone for what has become the science of ecology. Who knows what great works were in the papers burned by Union troops, papers that would have given us greater insight into the life and work of one of America's great natural thinkers.

The complimentary skills of John James Audubon and John Bachman resulted in Audubon's second major work entitled Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America, where Audubon painted the animals, and Bachman wrote the scientific text.

Watershed Update

Southern Appalachian Farmstead Proposal

In a blatant affront to the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, the Sumter National Forest's Andrew Pickens Ranger District finally released a voluminous environmental assessment for their ill-conceived "Southern Appalachian Farmstead" proposal. Revealed in May 2012 after nearly 3 years in the back rooms of the Forest Service's planning process, the convoluted environmental assessment attempts to provide justification for moving ahead with developing a farmstead theme park and visitor center on the banks of the Chattooga River, inside the Chattooga Wild & Scenic River Corridor.

The area targeted for the proposed development lies at a peaceful spot in the wild and scenic river corridor located just downstream of the Highway 28 bridge, in the vicinity of the defunct Russell House farm as well as the archaeological site of the historic Cherokee village known as Chattooga Old Town. Here—not only within the wild and scenic river corridor but also in a floodplain and wetland zone—the Forest Service has proposed issuing a "special use permit" that would allow: construction of a gift shop; construction of a caretaker's residence; installation of 2 or more buildings, as well as several additional structures such as a sawmill, sorghum mill and other buildings; installation of pastures, corrals and livestock; construction of a gated, 30-car parking lot within 200 feet of the river; reduction of stream buffer protections, from 100 feet down to 40 feet; heavy application of herbicides; and, clearing the area of native vegetation to include trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our "action alert" and submitted comments to the Forest Service by the June 2012 deadline. The agency received many comments, of which the overwhelming majority voiced opposition to the farmstead development scheme. To view these comments, check the Sumter National Forest's website at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/scnfs/home/?cid=stelprdb5365697, but take note: the District Ranger was quoted as saying, "It's not a popularity contest."

The undeveloped character of the Wild & Scenic Chattooga River Corridor and its outstanding resource values should be maintained and restored to the highest degree possible, ***not further degraded or compromised by development and exploitation.*** Naturally, stay tuned on this one.

Dam Removed From Chattooga Headwaters

Residents of the Cashiers Valley in the Chattooga's North Carolina headwaters notified the Chattooga Conservancy that a property owner had constructed a dam across the headwaters of the river, on Forest Service land at the top of the Wild & Scenic River Corridor. The offensive impoundment was located adjacent to the landowner's lot, in a subdivision called Silver Slip Falls Resort. Upon further investigation, we were surprised to discover that the dam had been built with the full knowledge and cooperation of Nantahala National Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials.

The Chattooga Conservancy teamed with the able counsel of the Southern Environmental Law Center, in an effort that ultimately forced the Forest Service to request that the landowner remove the dam. Since the Forest Service erred in allowing the dam to be constructed, a team of agency workers dismantled the dam—our tax dollars at work!

319(h) Projects

The Chattooga Conservancy recently accepted a contract to execute a second 319(h) project in cooperation with the City of Clayton, that will continue our work to improve water quality in Stekoa Creek. 319 projects stem from Section 319(h) of the federal Clean Water Act, and (in Georgia) are awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division for funding projects that address water quality impairments, and that prevent, control and/or abate non-point sources of water pollution.



Boulders, large river rocks and plastic culverts were cemented into place across the Chattooga River, creating an illegal and unsightly impoundment located on public lands at the base of Silver Slip Falls.

The new 319 project entails developing a "watershed management plan" for the Stekoa Creek watershed, which includes the creek itself and any tributaries. A watershed management plan (WMP) is an inventory of all the primary sources of impairment and pollutant loading within a watershed, and also includes recommendations for addressing and correcting these pollution sources. In addition to providing updated information about pollution sources in the Stekoa Creek watershed, the WMP will be important because it will enable future water quality improvement projects to qualify for additional 319(h) funding applications, as well as other state and federal grant opportunities. This new 319(h) project is in addition to the Chattooga Conservancy's ongoing work to complete a previous 319 project work plan that is implementing a variety of "best management practices" for reducing non-point source water pollution in the Stekoa Creek watershed.

Watershed Update

Upper Chattooga Controversy

From December 1st to April 30th, whitewater boating is now “legal” on the Chattooga River above the Highway 28 Bridge, from just below the confluence of Green Creek and the main stem of the Chattooga River, down to Licklog Creek. The only restrictions are that paddling is not allowed under the water level of 350 CFS; group size cannot exceed 6 people; and, boaters must register, put in and take out at designated sites during day light hours. There is no limit on the total number of people, and/or the number of groups.

Much of the opposition to allowing whitewater boating in the Chattooga River headwaters has centered on the potential damage to the resource, and conflicts between anglers and paddlers using the same section of river at the same time. Concerns about negative impacts to the resource have included the potential damage to the sensitive environs and the existing solitude of the relatively remote headwaters from creating new access trails for paddling groups and spectators, and creating portage routes around rapids and strainers (logs in the current), as well as the unfortunate potential for creating even more new access trails for local rescue squad operations.

The Chattooga Conservancy’s position on the issue has been well documented over the many years of this controversy. **We proposed a compromise for permitting boating with certain restrictions—that are significantly different than the Forest Service’s restrictions named above—and advocated for using existing access to accommodate boaters, and not the construction of new access trails.** Our objective continues to be protecting the Chattooga’s “outstandingly remarkable values” as the highest priority, while establishing a reasonable and fair balance among user groups. Meanwhile, American Whitewater (AW) continues to press for lifting all restrictions. The federal lawsuit filed by AW against the Forest Service was supposed to be scheduled by late 2012, but it is still pending.

Native Cane Restoration – Next Steps

Last March, volunteers from the Upstate Master Naturalists Association, SC Native Plant Society, Revitalization of Traditional Cherokee Artisan Resources (RTCAR), Chattooga Conservancy and friends gathered to transplant and propagate native river cane at the newly established, 29-acre cane restoration site bordering the Chattooga River near the Highway

28 Bridge. This effort was the first step in implementing the Forest Service’s decision that approved the Chattooga Conservancy and RTCAR’s request to designate a native river cane restoration area along the Chattooga River.

Native canebrake habitat is one of the most endangered ecosystems in the Southeast, and restoring a relatively large stand of river cane on the Chattooga River is a unique project that will provide many benefits for both water quality and wildlife. Also, since contemporary science lacks much information about restoring and managing a native canebrake ecosystem, a successful project on the Chattooga River will establish an outstanding venue for research at both the species

and ecosystem levels. With support from the Cherokee Preservation Foundation and the National Forest Foundation, the Chattooga Conservancy will be working in the early spring of 2013 to transplant at least 400 river cane culms (plants and root stock) into the project area. To volunteer some time for this ground-breaking effort, please contact us at info@chattoogariver.org

Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released

The Andrew Pickens Ranger District in the SC portion of the Chattooga watershed has just released a lengthy draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for their plan to remove Loblolly pine plantations on a large area of the district—a whopping 5,542 acres. This project was first proposed in a “scoping” letter almost 3 years ago, where the Chattooga Conservancy protested the 60 miles of new roads to be reconstructed and/or constructed, and the proposed replacement of Loblolly pines with another pine species monoculture, rather than with our native hardwood forest

type. **The EIS is posted on Sumter National Forest’s website, and the deadline for comments is February 13, 2013.** Please check our website in early February for a look at our comments.

Staff Transitions

Following the big news conveyed in this publication on the Director’s Page, the **Chattooga Conservancy now welcomes Andy Smith as the newest member of our staff.** Andy is licensed to practice law in GA, FL & SC, and has spent the last 20 years working for environmental protection as an attorney for the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation, solo attorney, and as a founder and executive director of the Apalachicola Riverkeeper. Welcome back to the Chattooga watershed, Andy!



Numerous volunteers gathered last spring to help transplant some river cane at the project site on the Chattooga River near the Hwy. 28 Bridge.

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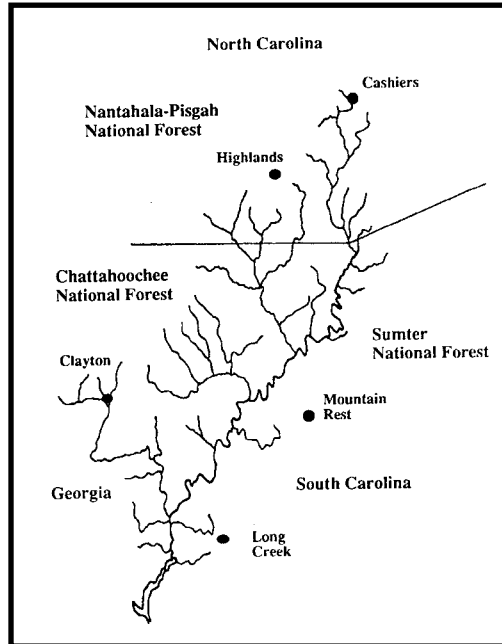
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Mission:

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

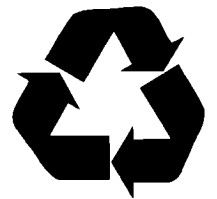
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