

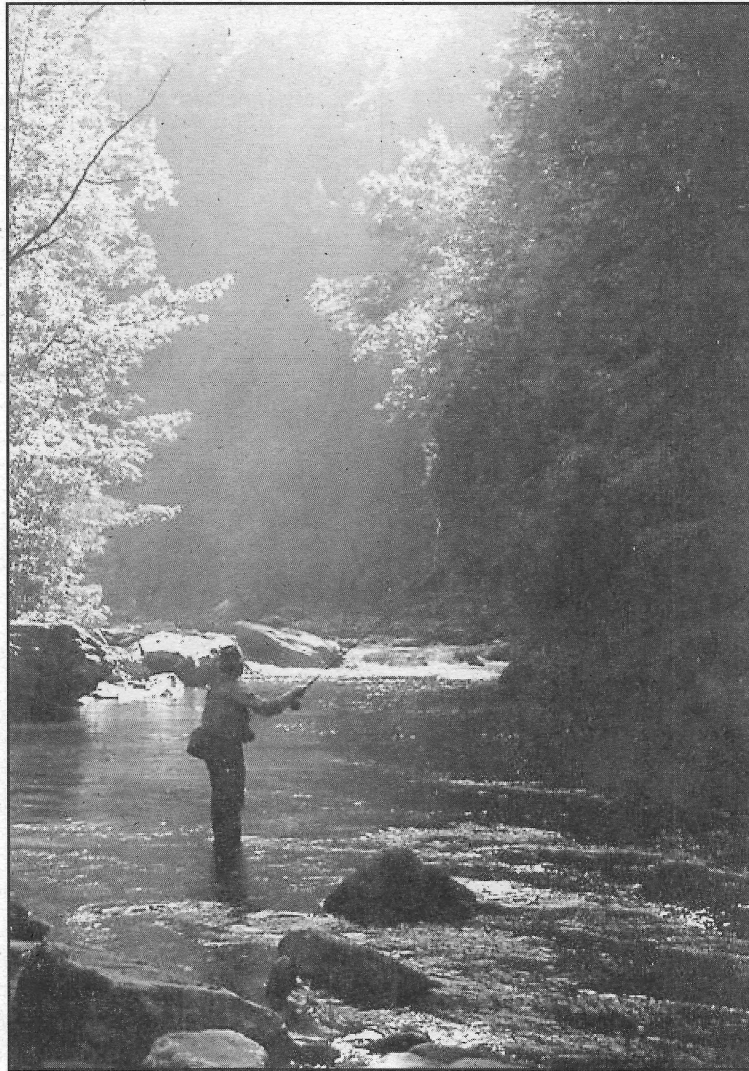


# The Chattooga Quarterly

Summer ❖ 2003

\$1

## *Summer Stock*



*Dawn greets a solitary fly fisherman on the upper Chattooga.  
photo by Doug Adams*

## *I n s i d e*

Director's Page.....	2	Watershed Update.....	11
Forest Plan Comments.....	3	Events.....	12
The Controversy of ATVs on Public Lands.....	7	Member's Page.....	13
Invasive Plants Threaten Native Ecosystems.....	9		

# Director's Page

*Buzz Williams*

I enjoy working on our property. The work is necessary for our lifestyle and it also yields side benefits. Repetitive physical labor like cutting firewood or mowing the grass can be a way to relax and clear the mind. Sometimes, then, my unencumbered mind soars far from the task at hand to unexplored places and dreams or back to a time past that had, by the nature of its significance, etched itself into the archives of memory.

The rain had finally stopped long enough to hoe the weeds out of the upper garden. My mind was cluttered with debris left over from writing comments about the new management plans proposed for the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests. At stake is the "good" or "bad" management of 70% of the Chattooga River watershed, for the next ten to fifteen years. No matter what I might say in composing any "comment" document, the task was made frustrating by knowing that the Forest Service is "locked and loaded" to reinstitute logging, mining, and other commercial interests as the primary management objectives in their new forest plans.

From this and other challenges we face in these threatening times, I resolved to retreat into a blessed hour of daydreaming while hoeing the garden. Soon I became hypnotized by the rhythmic chop, chop of the hoe and drifted back to a hot summer's day when I was a 12-year-old playing Little League baseball. It was the top of the ninth inning and we were playing our arch-rivals the La France Red Socks, mill hill boys from a few country miles away. They were in first place in the league and we were in the cellar. In fact, we hadn't won a single game that season.

The score was 4 to 1, and I was coming to bat. The inning started at the top of the order and we had been lucky as our first two batters hit singles and were on base with runners on first and second. The big Red's pitcher had a blazing fastball but was known to be a little wild. "Keep your eye on the ball and swing level," I kept telling myself. I swung at his first pitch right at the letters and connected with a solid-line drive triple to the hole between left and center field. The hit drove in two runs, with the score now 4 to 3. We were hearing something now we hadn't heard before—cheers!

Tommy was our clean up hitter. Although missing the three middle fingers on his left hand, he was one of our best players. Tommy's technique was to cradle the bat in his

"nub" and swing with his powerful right arm. On this day, though, no one was thinking about Tommy's impairment or his technique, but rather that approaching the plate was a very courageous and capable fellow.

Hoping to break his concentration, our coach tried to rattle the pitcher by giving me the sign to take a long lead off the bag to draw a couple of throws to third base. A couple of foul balls, two throws to third and three wild pitches to the plate left the count on Tommy full at three and two. Finally, the pitch came and I could tell by Tommy's subtle lead step that he was swinging for the seats. The outfielder could only watch as the ball sailed over the right field wall. We all mobbed Tommy at the plate in celebration. We were now winning by the score of 5 to 4.

**"...the task was made frustrating by knowing that the Forest Service is 'locked and loaded' to reinstitute logging, mining, and other commercial interests as the primary management objectives in their new forest plans."**

Our next three batters went down swinging, sending us into the last of the ninth on a note of reality. We still had three more tough outs on the Reds to win. The first batter popped up for an easy out and their second batter got on first with a blooper to right center field. The next guy was known to all as a pull hitter, almost always hitting hard ground balls to short stop or third base. The double play was lined up and all we would need to beat the Reds.

Lee was our second baseman; he was not a good ball player. Any double play and the game could depend on him to turn the play. "Lee," someone yelled, "don't forget to cover the bag!" He was scared to death.

The crack of the bat proved all theory valid as the grounder bounced straight to me at short. I scooped it up and with an underhand toss to Lee, watched breathlessly with everyone else on that hot summer's day as the whole game rode on the shoulders of the scared little boy at second base. Of everything that happened that day, nothing was as memorable as the play Lee made when he fielded the ball clean, leaping into the air as the runner slid beneath him and delivering a strike to first base to turn the double play for the game.

The heat and thirst brought me back to the chopping garden hoe. Back to the stark reality of the challenges we face to protect our fragile planet from greed and exploitation in a hostile time. Maybe that baseball game in 1962, where a rag-tag team of determined and courageous little boys kept their eye on the ball and won the big game, became etched in my memory for a reason.



# Forest Plan Comments

**Buzz Williams**

*Years in the making, the U. S. Forest recently presented citizens with their new Forest Plans for public lands in the Chattooga River watershed. The following is an abridged version of the Chattooga Conservancy's comments on these draft Land & Resource Management Plans for the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests.*

The Chattooga River watershed is unique because it is one of the only watersheds in the eastern United States with the potential to be restored to its native condition while providing the public with a "wilderness experience." Nearly 70% of the 200,000-acre watershed is in public ownership. The presence of 57 miles of "free flowing" river protected by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is unmatched in the Southern Appalachian mountains. In addition, the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area, the Ellicott Rock Extensions (SC and GA), Rock Gorge and Sarah's Creek Roadless Areas, numerous botanical-zoological and cultural areas, along with potential linkages to adjacent wild areas including the Bee Cove Roadless Area, White Rock Scenic Area, Oconee State Park, the Jocassee Gorge Complex on the Blue Ridge Escarpment in South Carolina and North Carolina, and the Tallulah Falls and Black Rock State Parks in Georgia provide one of the best opportunities to apply the principles of conservation biology to restore one of the only large-scale functioning ecosystems in the eastern United States. (Note: this list of roadless areas does not include those we believe were mistakenly excluded from the Forest Service's roadless inventory including Terrapin Mountain, Windy Gap, Three Forks, Five Falls and Thrift's Ferry Roadless Areas, which are certainly also a part of the previous list of potential core wild areas.)

The founding of our organization in 1991 was inspired by a vision to work cooperatively with the Forest Service in revising the LRMPs for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests to incorporate a watershed management concept aimed at implementing the then revolutionary management paradigm of "ecosystem management." Our initial proposal to the Forest Service, entitled "A Request to the Forest Service for a New Perspectives Management Plan for the Chattooga River Watershed," was the impetus for two subsequent pilot projects conducted by the Forest Service called the "Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project" and the "Chattooga River Watershed Restoration Project." The Chattooga Conservancy has also diligently participated in both the Sumter and Chattahoochee Forest's plan revision processes since their beginning eight years ago. At that time we offered the "Chattooga Conservation Plan" as a citizen's alternative for the revision of both of these forest plans. The Chattooga Conservation Plan relied heavily on research funded by the Chattooga River Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project, management guidelines in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Forest Service National and Regional Directives, and the Forest Service

Manual and Handbook. The Chattooga Conservation Plan was composed also in cooperation with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition and The Conservation Fund. It was extensively peer reviewed by prominent scientists, and soundly endorsed.

We have carefully reviewed both proposed revised LRMP for the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests, and have found them to be almost universally inadequate to meet scientific and legal standards prerequisite in protecting the ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed and the whole array of multiple uses that arise from a healthy native ecosystem. Both Plans include prescriptions for "unnatural" manipulation that emphasizes early successional habitat far, far beyond that exemplified by the native forest that existed prior to the heavy disturbance inflicted by European occupation. We therefore, again in good faith, request that the Forest Service incorporate the Chattooga Conservation Plan (enclosed, and posted at [www.chattoogariver.org](http://www.chattoogariver.org)) with amendments discussed later in this document as the preferred alternative in the LRMP revisions for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests.

The main thrust of the Chattooga Conservation Plan involves utilizing the Forest Service's planning process to craft management plans based on restoring ecological integrity, and standardizing management plans within the three national forests (Sumter, Chattahoochee and Nantahala) lying in the watershed. The Chattooga Conservation Plan proposal calls for withdrawing the entire Chattooga River watershed from the more general National Forest System and designating it as a Research Natural Area. This designation would allow an emphasis on research, education and restoration of native forest types and natural processes. This designation as a Research Natural Area would insulate the area from otherwise emphasized extractive uses such as commercial timber production and mining. The plan would essentially restore, connect and protect large blocks of unfragmented forest habitat representing all native forest types in the Chattooga watershed according to the principles of landscape ecology.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

**Consistency** The revised LRMPs proposed for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests fail to include Regional Guidance to standardize management in the Chattooga River watershed. For instance, the two forests have very different management prescriptions for the Rock Gorge Roadless Area that spans across the Chattooga River into both forests. The Sumter recommends it be managed as a back-country area with an emphasis on recreation, roadless values and water quality; the Chattahoochee recommends it be managed similarly, but without an emphasis on the aforementioned qualities. The two forests also have different management proposals for Wild, Scenic



# Forest Plan Comments

and Recreational classifications of the Georgia and South Carolina sides of the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River. While the Chattahoochee Plan proposes maintaining "natural processes" in Wild and Scenic classifications, the Sumter Plan proposes opening them up to game management. The revised Forest Plans for the two respective forests also propose very different management prescriptions for lands adjacent to Chattooga Corridor in the remainder of the national forest lands. All of these inconsistencies need to be corrected in favor of honoring the intent of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, and protecting and restoring native forests. In addition, we recommend that both forest's LRMPs adhere to the Chattooga Conservation Plan, which has all roadless areas designated as Wilderness in both Forest Plans. We also recommend that all areas outside these roadless areas where native restoration is appropriate to be designated as Ecological Restoration Areas, where timber harvesting is a by-product of restoration actions.

The Forest Service's Regional Direction for coordination of the forest plan revision process was to develop a fully integrated approach to managing all national forests in the Chattooga River watershed. In a 1997 letter to all three national forests in the Chattooga River watershed, the Regional Forester directed them to manage the Chattooga River watershed as a single "...Management Area that will be shared by all three national forests in the area as they revise their Forest Plans."

Clearly, the proposed Forest Plans for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests are out of compliance with Regional Guidance for consistency. As a remedy we recommend implementation of The Chattooga Conservation Plan, which is consistent in its management proposals for both forests, and in recommending that all roadless areas be treated as Wilderness, and designating Ecological Restoration Areas for restoring native forests in the buffers and corridors between the roadless/Wilderness areas.

**Wilderness** A Forest Service publication, Wilderness Management, (Misc. Pub. No. 1365, Oct. 1978) states "As the rest of our country becomes more developed and modified, the natural conditions preserved in wilderness will become more and more valuable to the American people, both for enjoyment and renewal, and also for scientific knowledge of ecological processes." Wilderness designation is already vastly underrepresented at the general forest level by just .6% in the National Wilderness Preservation System, with national representation at 2.2%. Preservation of habitat for Threatened and Endangered

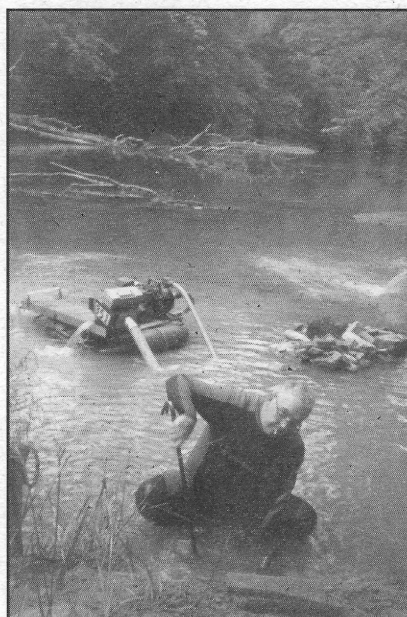
species provided by wilderness designation is critical in heavily disturbed forest areas in the eastern United States. There is also a growing population in need of the restorative qualities of wilderness recreation.

The revised Forest Plans for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forest recommend only the expansion of the Ellicott Rock Wilderness Area, while leaving the lion's share of other qualified roadless areas unprotected with an array prescriptions that allow over-exploitation from roading, unnatural even-age management and heavy recreational use including All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs). Even areas with stated protection for their roadless character are in jeopardy as is the Ellicott Rock Expansion in the Sumter that was reduced in size based on a faulty change of evaluation criteria since the last Forest Plan.

We recommend the two revised Forest Plan's lack of protection for roadless areas be remedied by implementing the Chattooga Conservation Plan, which designates all roadless areas as wilderness thus more adequately preserving those values such as biological diversity and recreational opportunity that are in such great demand in the Southern Appalachian mountain region. Our recommended alternative is also more in line with national guidance than the proposed Forest Plans for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forest as stated by the Forest Service's own scientist in terms of meeting biological and recreational needs.

Finally, we believe the proposal to use prescribed fire in Wilderness is clearly in conflict with the provisions of the Wilderness Act regarding the Act's direction for management for a "natural condition," in that the Chattooga watershed ecosystem is not fire dependent in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness. The proposed use of prescribed fire here should be abandoned.

**Old Growth** Forest Service guidelines for Developing Directions for Old Growth in Forest Plans states, "National Forest managers will develop a network of old growth areas of various sizes and will develop management prescriptions for these areas." Nowhere in either proposed Forest Plan is there any definitive designation of known old growth, much less any coherent plan for linkages, restoration or representation of all known native forest types in the watershed. At the basic level, both the Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests have even failed to recognize known patches of irrefutable old growth existence that is documented in accepted scientific journals or their own studies conducted in the "Chattooga Ecosystem



*Both revised Forest Plans allocate large areas of the forest for mineral leasing, and would allow suction dredging in riparian areas.*



## Forest Plan Comments

Management Demonstration Project" research i.e., "Floristic and Vegetative Survey of the Chattooga River Gorge," (by Dumond, Castanea, Vol. 35 No.4, December 1970) or "An Assessment of the Old Growth Forest Resources on National Forest System Lands in the Chattooga River Watershed," (by Carlson, USDA Forest Service, Region 8, "Chattooga Ecosystem Management Demonstration Project," 1995). The Forest Plans are woefully irresponsible in identifying and/or developing the network of old growth communities so critical to restoring the native ecosystem that the Forest Service so clearly recognizes in their own research and management direction.

As a remedy, we recommend implementing a model such as contained in the Chattooga Conservation Plan, which not only maps these rare biotic communities that are among the rarest in eastern North America (and are about 4% of the entire Chattooga River watershed) but also provides for restoring corridors of connectivity between old growth patches.

### ***Wild and Scenic River Classification Prescriptions and Recommendations***

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSR Act) states, "Wild sections are where management seeks to preserve the river and its immediate environment in a natural, wild and primitive condition and provide water oriented recreation opportunities in a primitive setting." The revised Sumter National Forest Plan proposes maintaining existing wildlife openings in violation of the guidelines in the WSR Act. The revised Sumter Plan also proposes wildlife opening maintenance in the Scenic sections of the Chattooga River WSR Corridor, which also violates tenants in the WSR Act calling for undeveloped management. Most disturbing, however, are recommendations by both forests to use prescribed fire in the WSR Corridor, and to open recreational sections for timber management. This is without doubt contrary to direction in the WSR Act that states, "Each component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in said system without, insofar as is consistent therein, limiting other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values. In such administration primary emphasis shall be given to protecting its esthetic, scenic, historic, archeological, and scientific features. Management plans for any such component may establish varying degrees of intensity for its protection and development based on the special attributes of the area." The unnatural and invasive activities of prescribed burning and timber management in the Chattooga National Wild and Scenic River Corridor will certainly harm all the above mentioned values as stated in

the WSR Act and will certainly result in litigation.

Concerning new designations, we agree with the revised Chattahoochee National Forest Plan to extend Wild and Scenic designation for three miles up Overflow Creek. Further, we recommend closure and obliteration of the Billingsly Creek road, that crosses Overflow Creek in this section of wild river, at least one quarter of a mile to the west. We also recommend that both Holcomb Creek and Big Creek be designated as components of the WSR Corridor. The addition of the East Fork of the Chattooga into the Wild and Scenic River System by the Sumter National Forest also has our endorsement.

***Native Forest Restoration*** In June of 2003, one of the members of the Cherokee National Forest Interdisciplinary Team working on the Forest Plan revision for that forest filed a disclosure to the Office of Special Counsel in Washington D.C. His disclosure revealed that all national forests in the Southern Appalachians currently revising their Forest Plans were ignoring information he had discovered in the Forest Service's own archives including land acquisition inventories and ecological studies that clearly prove the native forests in the Southern Appalachian Mountains are not products of heavy disturbance and fire. Proposed revisions for both the Sumter and the Chattahoochee erroneously dictate intensive even-age management and prescribed fire, in direct opposition to these historical records that prove our forests in the Chattooga watershed are naturally all-age (un-even); mature forests that remain in a "steady state" for long periods. The historical records also prove that these forest's natural



*The Chattooga watershed is unique in its potential to be restored to its native condition while providing the public with a "wilderness experience."*

processes consist of regeneration by gap phase dynamics as opposed to large scale succession of even age forests. Clearly, the even-age management regime proposed in the revised Sumter and Chattahoochee Forest Plans should be abandoned.

Again, we recommend instead the Chattooga Conservation Plan, which provides for ecological restoration timber harvesting in appropriate areas using single tree and group selection that mimics the natural gap phase dynamics of the native Southern Appalachian forests. We advocate prescribed fire only on dry ridges and in the extreme lowest elevations of the watershed outside protected or riparian areas on xeric sites.

The Forest Service's preferred alternatives for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forest revisions also arbitrarily increase the Allowable Sales Quantity in both these forests over "actual" timber production under the 1985

## Forest Plan Comments

Forest Plans, in opposition to their stated goals in the proposed Plans to manage for timber products as a by product of "ecosystem management." We believe the Forest Service is deliberately ignoring historical records of native forest conditions in order to meet politically derived "timber targets." Instead, implement the Chattooga Conservation Plan so as to eliminate timber targets by designating the Chattooga River watershed as Research Natural Area.

### OTHER ISSUES

The Sumter National Forest proposes in their revised Plan provisions to keep in place a ban on boating on the sections of the Chattooga River above the Highway 28 bridge. This is in keeping with the tenants of the WSR Act that call for managing certain areas for a particular experience, as opposed to demand. The upper sections of the Chattooga River are the only remaining sections of the river that can offer an element of solitude as prescribed by the WSR Act. We agree.

However, the Sumter National Forest also proposes increasing commercial access to the West Fork and Section II of the Chattooga River, and an increase in commercial use of semi-skilled craft, shuttle services and user day flexibility. We oppose these increases for several specific reasons. Permitting increased shuttle services to those who rent inflatable crafts is tantamount to permitting unguided trips on the Chattooga River. The WSR Act guides the Forest Service to permit activities on the Chattooga River for those activities involving a maximum degree of outdoor skills. Commercial raft trips and Clinic Permits already provide semi-skilled outlets. Commercial interests have already been permitted more user days than private, skills-oriented boaters who truly represent the targeted user group prescribed by the WSR Act. This is also the same reason that other low skill activities such as increased commercial rafting should not be increased. We strongly urge the Forest Service to refrain from promoting more unskilled boating on the Chattooga River by permitting combined rental/shuttle services. This would surely increase the likelihood of more accidents and drownings on one of the most dangerous rivers in the eastern United States.

**Roads** One of the greatest threat to aquatic ecosystems in the Chattooga River Watershed is from sedimentation from Forest Service roads. The Forest Service has an 800,000,000 dollar backlog of road maintenance costs. This translates into a clear need to obliterate unneeded roads in the national forests, and certainly to build no more. In addition, current trends to pave roads to help lower sedimentation only increases access into already stressed pristine backcountry. We recommend paving only steep slopes to prevent erosion and sedimentation, and a complete inventory of roads that could be eliminated to increase the viability of species that require unfragmented and unroaded habitat.

**Mineral Development** Both revised Plans for the Sumter and Chattahoochee National Forests allocate large areas of the forest for mineral leasing. Neither forest has conducted a "compatibility assessment" or considered the cumulative effects from such potentially harmful activity. This proposal to allow widespread mineral speculation is arbitrary and capricious and should be withdrawn until these obviously needed studies are conducted. Certainly another factor to support abandoning the mineral leasing proposal is the overwhelming public dissent to such activities on public lands.

**Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)** This issue is similar to mineral leasing in that no compatibility studies have been conducted. The Chattooga Conservancy feels strongly that OHV use is not compatible with responsible uses of National Forest System Lands in the Chattooga River watershed, where high rainfall in highly erodible soil types dominate the landscape.

**Invasive Exotic Species** The Sumter National Forest Plan revision proposes to attack the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid problem, which we actively support and suggest should be included as well in the revised Chattahoochee Forest Plan. However, both Forest Plans are short on strategies to eliminate invasive species that have been planted in wildlife openings such as Autumn olive. Surely, such invasive species should not be cultivated, and known accessible colonies should be extirpated.

**Legal Issues** The proposed revisions to both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forests as written will not only cause irreparable harm to the forests and streams of the Chattooga River watershed, but are in gross violation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Forest Management Act's species viability requirements, the National Environmental Policy Act in not offering all "reasonable" alternatives, the Quality Control Act in not using the Forest Service's own best scientific research, the Administrative Procedures Act in arbitrarily and capriciously increasing the ASQ, and its own management directives for consistency in managing the entire Chattooga River watershed as an ecological unit.

In conclusion, we commend the Forest Service for proposals to extend the Wild and Scenic Chattooga River Corridor in the Overflow Creek area, plans to address the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid problem, and proposing to continue the ban on boating above the Highway 28 Bridge. However, we strongly urge the Forest Service to offer a reasonable and legal alternative for restoring the ecological integrity of the Chattooga River watershed, as outlined in our comments, in subsequent drafts of proposed revisions for both the Chattahoochee and Sumter National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plans.



# The Controversy of ATVs on Public Lands

*Carol Greenberger*

National forests were established by Congress in 1897 to improve and protect our country's forests. The *Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of 1960* stated that the national forests would be administered for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, wildlife and fish purposes. Today, national forests cover more than 190 million acres nationwide. The U.S. Forest Service frequently finds itself called upon to perform a balancing act, trying to keep all users of the forest content. Conflicts between boaters and fishermen, hikers and horsemen, preservationists and loggers are all part of the balancing act. In recent years a new trouble zone lies between all-terrain vehicle (ATV) users and their opponents.

First introduced in 1971, ATVs quickly became popular, with almost 4 million in use today. Two areas of concern regarding ATVs in the national forests are the safety of ATVs themselves, and the effects of their use in the forests on the environment.

The safety of ATVs has been an issue since their introduction. In 1987 the three-wheeled ATV was banned due to its dangerous propensity to roll over, causing injuries and deaths. The four-wheel ATV is also responsible for numerous accidents. Between 1982 and 2001, at least 4,541 people died in ATV accidents nationwide, and 1.37 million were injured. ATV injuries requiring an emergency room visit have more than doubled in recent years. Injuries are rising faster than sales and the total number of driving hours. About a third of the victims injured in 2001 were under 16 years old.

ATVs range in weight from 350 to 1,500 pounds, averaging 600 pounds. Child sized models average 215 pounds and are equipped with a tether cord to cut the engine if a child falls off. State restrictions on children's use of ATVs vary, with age requirements ranging from none to 16 years. In South Carolina there are no laws requiring helmets or a minimum age for drivers and riders, but ATVs are not allowed on paved roads. Georgia law requires a helmet but also has no age requirement. North Carolina, along with 4 other states, has no regulations at all. Not surprisingly, the number of ATV related deaths in North Carolina and other non-regulated states is almost double that of states with safety laws. The two age groups with the most injuries were 16 to 24 and under 16 years old.

The Consumer Federation of America and other groups petitioned the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission in September 2002 to ban adult-size, four-wheel ATVs sold for the use of children under the age of 16. The

commission, the federal regulatory agency charged with protecting the public against unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products, held hearings to gather information on ATV safety this summer in West Virginia and Alaska. The All-Terrain Vehicle Association (ATVA) argues that more training and more areas where enthusiasts can ride under controlled conditions is all that is needed. Doug Morris, director of the ATVA, testified in the West Virginia hearing that a review of ATV related accidents indicates that misuse and lack of training were the fundamental causes of most crashes. The ATVA worries that the commission might recommend a complete ATV ban, a capacity limit on engines or a ban on sales of adult-sized ATVs for use by children under 16. No recommendations or decisions have been made by the safety commission to date. Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman Hal Stratton said the panel had no timetable for making any decisions on the issue, nor is it certain that new regulations will follow.



*A recent Forest Service study determined that the Oconee and Chattahoochee National Forests harbor 550 miles of illegal ATV trails.*

While safety of ATVs is a concern, the Forest Service cannot be expected to impose rules or regulations based on accident rates. If so, no one would be allowed to drive automobiles in the national forest! But whether or not ATVs are road legal is of concern to the Forest Service. In the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest in Georgia, the Forest Service recently had to

drop a proposal to open 100 miles of Forest Service roads for ATV use. Georgia state law does not allow the operation of ATVs on public roads, which certainly applies to Forest Service roads. But what about off road use of ATVs in the national forest? The pros and cons lead to heated debates with valid arguments on both sides.

Local ATV enthusiasts currently can enjoy 133 miles of trails in the Oconee and Chattahoochee National Forests. In the entire national forest system, covering more than 190 million acres in 155 forests, only 2 forests do not allow off road vehicles at all. ATV use is popular with hunters, giving them motorized access to remote areas and providing a means to bring out their kills more easily. ATV enthusiasts argue that millions of acres are open to non-motorized recreation and relatively few areas are open for off road use. Responsible ATV riders value the privilege of riding on public lands, and stay on marked, established trails and roads. Irresponsible riders, who do not remain on legal trails and roads or do not respect the desires of others for quiet in the wilderness, cause most of the problems between ATV riders and their opponents.

A recent report on ATV use in the Chattahoochee-Oconee

# The Controversy of ATVs on Public Lands

National Forest describes the discovery of over 550 miles of illegal trails, including some in designated wilderness areas and on trails restricted to pedestrians. The estimated cost of closing, rehabilitating and revegetating those trails is one million dollars—taxpayer dollars. Eroded streambeds, silted trout streams, spread of invasive weeds and plants, and deep erosion gullies are all consequences of unrestricted, unmanaged use of ATVs, dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles. Wildlife is disturbed and their habitats are impacted and in some cases even destroyed. The conflict between ATV riders and people seeking peace and quiet while hiking, swimming, or camping has led to questions about how well the Forest Service is enforcing existing laws and regulations concerning off-road vehicle use.

The Forest Service's authority in this case is governed by several existing statutes and executive orders. General Forest Service regulations prohibit a number of activities on and off Forest Service roads. Prohibited uses of the forest, including off-road vehicle use, are any activities that damage natural features or other property; unique or sensitive plants; or historic and archeological sites.

In 1972, President Nixon signed Executive Order 11644, stating that "the use of off-road vehicles on public lands will be controlled and directed so as to protect the resources of those lands, to promote the safety of all users of those lands, and to minimize conflicts among various uses of those lands." The Order also requires that when off-road routes are designated, federal land managers must minimize wildlife harassment and impacts to wildlife habitat and minimize damage to soil, watersheds, vegetation and other land resources. Federal land agencies are mandated by this order to annually monitor the impacts associated with off-road use.

Regulations implementing the 1976 National Forest Management Act require that off-road vehicle use be planned and implemented to protect land and other resources, promote public safety, and minimize conflicts with other uses of the national forest lands.

In 1977, President Carter built on these measures by signing Executive Order 11989. This order directs land managers to close land to off-road vehicles where their use "will cause or is causing considerable adverse effects on soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat or cultural or historic resources of particular areas or trails of the public lands," until the adverse effects have been eliminated and measures taken to prevent future reoccurrence.

The majority of national forests report that no monitoring or inadequate monitoring is currently performed on their off-road vehicle routes. Lack of funding can be pointed to as part of the problem. President Bush asked for a budget of \$84 million for Forest Service law enforcement. The Forest Service estimates this amount will support less than half of its requirements, which means that half of all incidents reported to rangers will not be investigated because of a shortage of personnel.

Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth, the nation's top forester, said that a more coherent plan to regulate ATVs is needed. He stated that ATVs have a place in the forests, but he would like to see them restricted to designated roads and trails. Boswell went on to say that the growing use of ATVs, the damage they can cause, and the conflicts involved will force the Forest Service to find ways to oversee use of the vehicles.



*Though ATVs provide easy access to recreational opportunities on public land, they can be harmful in sensitive areas like stream banks.*

Reports from forests across the country show damage done to the environment by ATVs, including erosion into streams, damaged wetlands, displaced wildlife, and damaged wildlife habitat. A monitoring report from Wayne National Forest in Indiana exhibits the Forest Service's frustration: "Whether we look at the designated trail system or the non-ORV [off-road vehicle] management areas, we have no control over off road vehicle use. We install signs and they are ripped out. We erect barriers and they are removed or ridden around. We rehab areas and they are violated again and again."

Groups such as the All Terrain Vehicle Association and the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) fully denounce illegal and irresponsible use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles in the national forests. Both organizations support legislation introduced in Congress to impose tough penalties on anyone who "willfully and knowingly" damages federal land. But obviously, these groups have no ability to enforce common sense or good manners on the riders that give ATVs a bad name. And while the Forest Service does have the power to enforce regulations concerning ATV use, they lack the manpower and money to do an effective job. Unfortunately in this case, one bad apple does spoil the whole bunch—it may be time to get ATVs out of the national forests until a method to allow them without any resulting harm to the environment or wildlife can be created and implemented.



# Invasive Plants Threaten Native Ecosystems

Eric Orr

Anyone who knows the landscape of the southeastern U.S. is all too familiar with kudzu. With a growth rate of up to 1 foot per day, kudzu has the propensity to swallow almost anything in its path. We've all seen trees, power poles, and sometimes entire houses consumed by the alien vine. Kudzu was introduced to the U.S. from Japan in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. American gardeners were quick to adopt the quick growing plant for use as a ground cover and a climbing ornamental. In the 1920's kudzu was promoted as livestock forage and sold widely through mail order. Then in the 1930's the Soil Conservation Service bolstered the vine for erosion control. The Civilian Conservation Corps began widespread planting in disturbed areas. With an already tenacious foothold, the occupation expanded when farmers were paid by the acre to plant fields of kudzu in the 1940's. Our federal government finally stopped endorsing kudzu in 1953, and the USDA declared it a noxious weed in 1972. Now kudzu rules a kingdom of over 7 million acres in the southeastern U.S.

Throughout our region we are plagued by numerous non-native invasive species. The obvious problem with non-natives is they often lack natural predators and tend to thrive in alien ecosystems. Once they become naturalized, they eventually choke out indigenous varieties, and drastically alter the original biodiversity. This creates a myriad of problems as native species lose critical habitat and food sources.

Most folks are familiar with privet, a non-native shrub found throughout our area, but the dangers posed by privet are not so well-known. Though its presence is extensive, it blends well into the native landscape and often goes unnoticed. Privet spreads aggressively, forming dense stands that choke out native plants and prevent new trees from sprouting underneath its dense canopy. It also thrives in shade which allows it to take over forest and field alike. Once established, it quickly turns a diverse ecosystem into a monoculture. Privet spreads by root sprouts and through seed dispersal by birds and other animals. The seeds are also spread by runoff water and floods. Now that the rain is back in force, water levels are reaching extreme levels and seeds have a better chance to move into previously unfested areas. No one seems to know why, but in the past few years privet has been spreading more rapidly than ever before. It takes over faster than kudzu and now inhabits several million acres

throughout the Southeast.

A less commonly known problem plant is the autumn olive, still widely available through the commercial nursery industry. Autumn olive is a shrub that was introduced from East Asia in the 1830's. It was primarily used in shelterbelts and as an ornamental. The small sweet fruit is relished by wildlife such as deer, turkey, and songbirds making it "ideal" for wildlife food plots. As a result, autumn olive can be found throughout our national forests in areas designated by the U.S. Forest Service as wildlife habitat. One of the Chattooga's most rampant stands is slowly devouring one of our last canebrakes near the Highway 28 bridge. Native rivercane at one time occupied thousands of acres throughout the Southeast. Largely through human development and livestock grazing it is now quickly disappearing. A multitude of species depend on native cane

for food and habitat. The endangered (possibly extinct) Bachman's warbler, the swamp rabbit, and nearly 20 species of moths and butterflies are among the list. The once prolific Carolina Parakeet was driven to extinction in part by the demise of rivercane.

Wild roses have become a common sight in our area, as well. Among the non-natives are multiflora rose, Macartney rose, and, ironically, Cherokee rose. Their thorny vines are often found in pasture lands, around old homesteads, in right of ways, new forests, and on the edges of overgrown fields. All are

deciduous except the Cherokee rose. Their small white flowers appear from April to June. Like most non-natives, they were introduced to the U.S. from Asia in the 1800's. Originally used as "living fences" to detain livestock, non-native roses were eventually planted to control erosion and for wildlife cover. In fact, state conservation departments issued rooted cuttings to landowners, free of charge, to encourage wildlife habitat. More recently they have been planted to reduce headlight glare in highway median strips. Now they are listed as a noxious weeds in many states, as their rampant spread often interferes with cattle grazing. For some strange reason, the white Cherokee rose has held the title of "Georgia State Flower" since 1916. Most native roses like the Carolina rose have pink flowers.

According to the Forest Service, Japanese honeysuckle is the most commonly occurring invasive in our region. Most



*A sea of kudzu surrounds the person standing at the horizon line. Kudzu blankets 7 million acres in the Southeast.*

## Invasive Plants Threaten Native Ecosystems

of us have fond childhood memories of licking nectar from the sweet smelling flowers of this vine, and deer love it, too. In our southern climates, the evergreen leaves of honeysuckle provide browse all year long. As such, it is frequently used in wildlife food plots, where it often escapes beneath the canopy of the surrounding forest. Japanese honeysuckle is highly shade tolerant, so it does well throughout a wide range of conditions.

Known by its silky pink flowers and fern-like foliage, the mimosa, or silk tree, is frequently seen along roadsides. This Asian native has been planted extensively as an ornamental since the late 1700's. It grows quickly in open sun and outcompetes indigenous shrubs and trees. Though it is not very shade tolerant and will not invade established forests, the silk tree has the potential to take over riparian areas and spread downstream.

The princess tree, or paulownia, characterized by its huge catalpa-like leaves and light purple flowers, is common in old home sites, along roads, and in riparian areas. Like most invasives, it does well in disturbed and previously burned areas and in forests that have recently been destroyed by pests.



*The edge of this wildlife food plot has been planted with invasive autumn olives, which are encroaching on a critical native cane brake near the Chattooga River.*

Due to pests like the hemlock woolly adelgid and the southern pine beetle, our forests are now more susceptible to exotics than ever. Though biological control will offer some protection against hemlock mortality, dying trees will give exotics new territories to invade. Unfortunately, treatment options are very limited. The most effective way to control most invasives is a combination of mechanical and chemical treatments. After the plants are cut, a follow-up of herbicide is usually necessary to destroy the remaining roots. In some cases fire and repeated cutting are sufficient to eliminate non-natives. Unfortunately, large scale control is difficult, and herbicides obviously should not be used in sensitive riparian areas.

Goats are quickly gaining popularity for their insatiable appetite for kudzu. Throughout the Southeast, universities, power companies, and individual farmers are using them to keep the vine in check. Goats are a seemingly perfect solution for areas like power line rights of way and large fields. They are relatively low maintenance and much more

environmentally friendly than other methods; and they actually pay for themselves. The demand for goat products like milk, cheese, and even meat is rapidly increasing, as are prices. And kudzu is beneficial to goats. According to researchers at Fort Valley State University, goats prefer kudzu to grass, and it's easily digestible and high in protein. Though goats can't be expected to get rid of kudzu, they can be used in conjunction with chemicals and other methods to eradicate it.

Engaging in a battle against all non-natives is impractical and impossible to win. Unfortunately, we must learn to accept the presence of alien invasives and focus control efforts on critical areas like the native cane brake mentioned above. Heavy equipment, fire, and frequent follow-ups are the only way to successfully eradicate that particular stand of autumn olives. Though it would be intrusive and initially destructive, the benefit of restoring the native rivercane would eventually outweigh the negatives. In other areas

(outside of sensitive riparian areas), mechanical treatments coupled with chemicals may be more suitable, as some plants simply cannot be eliminated without the use of herbicides. The most effective treatment of exotic invasion is prevention. Almost every established non-native gained its freedom by escaping from cultivation. Most are grown as ornamentals. Though the effects of invasive

plants probably could not have been foretold, we now know the devastation a single plant can inflict. But the commercial nursery industry continues to deal in threatening plants, and many are still being planted extensively. Landscaping with indigenous species significantly reduces the threat of widespread habitat loss in our forests, and it will tell the industry non-natives have no place. We have plenty of invasives encroaching upon our ecosystem, and hopefully we can close the gate to more.

***To request a free copy of Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests, A Field Guide for Identification and Control, call the Forest Service at 828-257-4830, or view it on the web at:***  
[http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr\\_srs062/](http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/gtr/gtr_srs062/)



# Watershed Update

## WATER RIGHTS

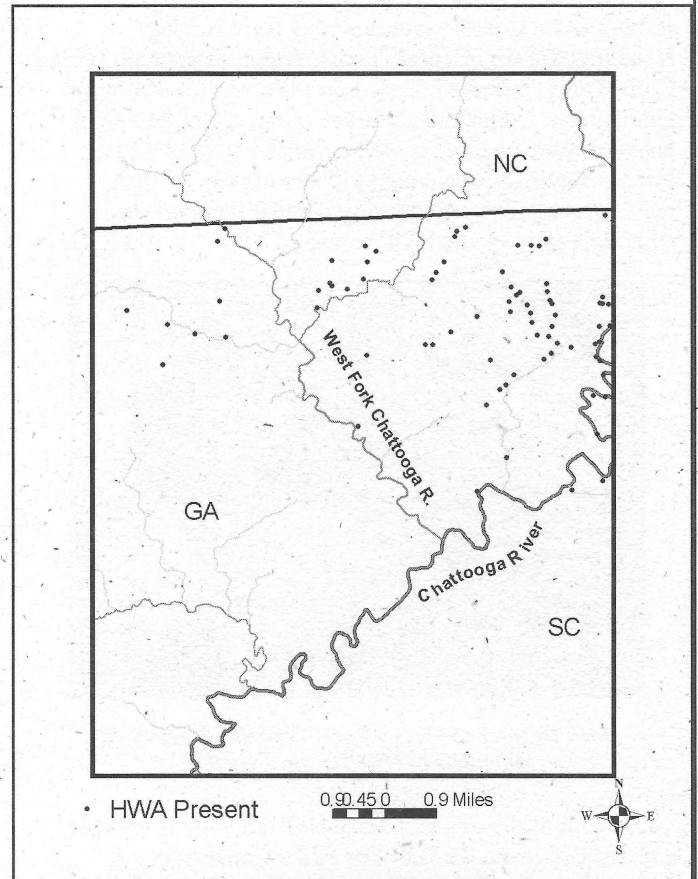
The Chattooga Conservancy encourages our Georgia members to join us in supporting the Georgia Water Coalition (GWC), which is a group of individuals and organizations working to ensure that Georgia's surface and ground waters remain a public resource, sustainably managed in the public interest to protect natural systems and meet human and economic needs. Population growth and drought have brought water resources to the forefront of Georgia political issues, and although several water-related bills were hotly contested during the Georgia General Assembly's 2003 legislative session, no comprehensive water management bill was passed. The issues are sure to resume vigorous discussion in the upcoming legislative session, and key in this debate is whether or not to allow water withdrawal permits to be bought and sold among private parties for money. If water is changed from being managed as a public resource to being treated as a private commodity, certainly the environment and the taxpayer will suffer. To learn more about important water rights issues and to get involved in their imminent resolution, contact the Chattooga Conservancy and visit the GWC's website at [www.georgiawater.org](http://www.georgiawater.org)

## LAWSUIT FILED IN RABUN COUNTY POWER LINE CASE

The long haul of challenging Georgia Transmission Company's (GTC) plans to build a 115 kv power line through Rabun County's private lands, trout streams and old growth trees in the Chattahoochee National Forest has now

entered the arena of the federal courts. On June 13<sup>th</sup> the Turner Environmental Law Clinic filed a lawsuit challenging the U. S. Forest Service's decision to allow GTC free reign in building their power line on national forest lands. The complaint was filed on behalf of the Chattooga Conservancy, Georgia Forest Watch and the Sierra Club, and holds to our argument that the 115 kv line is not needed—alternatives such as upgrading the county's

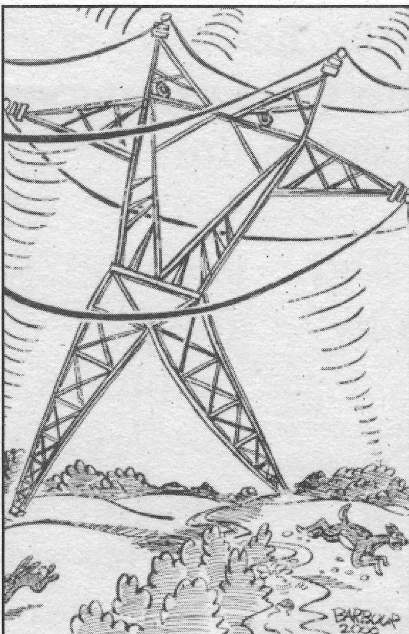
electrical distribution system could meet Rabun County's electricity needs. The U. S. Attorney's response on behalf of the Forest Service will be forthcoming in mid-August.



*This Geographic Information Systems map shows the presence of HWA in the Georgia portion of the Chattooga River watershed.*

## HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID MAPPING PROJECT

The Chattooga Conservancy has completed the first stage of a project aimed at tracking and mapping the spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) infestations in the Chattooga River watershed. With field data collected by James Sullivan (of the Georgia Forestry Commission), we have produced a Geographic Information Systems map identifying the HWA presence in the Georgia portion of the watershed and plan to continue the project in North and South Carolina. Once we have finished collecting data we will use the information to determine the best release sites for the predator beetles produced by the Clemson laboratory. We also plan to analyze various factors like slope, aspect, and soil type to determine whether they have any influence on HWA infestations and hemlock mortality rates. *We are seeking volunteers to help with the data collection process. If you are interested please contact the Chattooga Conservancy at 706-782-6097 or email Eric Orr at [eric@chattoogariver.org](mailto:eric@chattoogariver.org).*



*Will the 115 kv monster "transform" Rabun County? The controversy has been ongoing for more than 3 years.*

## Events

Recently the Conservancy held two fun filled community events. On May 31<sup>st</sup> we hosted our annual **Conservation Fair**. Then on June 21<sup>st</sup> we held a **Solstice Celebration**, with barbeque, live music, dancing and a silent auction.

Joining us on Conservation Fair day were Foxfire, Hambidge Center, Georgia Forest Watch, Nantahala Hiking Club, Trout Unlimited, U. S. Forest Service, and Simply Homegrown Community Market. Arts, crafts, and local produce were for sale, as well as lunch by Inger's Fine Foods. Enviro-Scope taught kid's craft projects using recycled materials, and back by popular demand was Cherokee storyteller Lloyd Arneach.



*Mark Hufford displays a Red Tailed Hawk during his "Wonders of Wildlife" presentation.*

The big hit of the day was Mark Hufford and his animal ambassadors from the Carolina Kids' Conservancy. Accompanied by live wild animals, Mark talked about local wildlife, their habitats, dangers posed to them by humans, and rehabilitation from human-caused injuries. Mark displayed a possum, red tailed hawk, screech owl and a barred owl—all unreleasable due to disabilities—to illustrate the problems wild animals face in an increasingly developed environment. After Mark's presentation, the Marie Mellinger Conservation Award was presented to Claudia Taylor in recognition of her tireless work to promote environmental protection, and outstanding support of the Chattooga Conservancy.

The Solstice Celebration was a new event, and was a booming success as a fundraiser and very fun evening. Award winning barbeque by Wayne Crinshaw accompanied wonderful side dishes made by Libby Mathews, and lots of folks donated baked goods. Andy's Market, Osage Market, BiLo and Ingles donated food, and the Lake Rabun Association loaned tables and chairs. Hank Belew "and friends" played music, followed by the Pot Luck String Band with a caller for dancing. A full house of great silent auction items led to fierce bidding throughout the evening to procure that favorite item. If you missed these events this year, watch for them next summer. We hope you'll join us!



**NOVEMBER 29TH**  
**SATURDAY 10:00-5:00**

Community Conservation Center  
corner of Warwoman & Pinnacle  
8/10 mile from 441 in Clayton

**Music**  
**Food**  
**Fun!**

**Shop for the holidays &  
support the Conservancy  
at the same time!**

wood carving  
photography

pottery  
glass  
paintings  
baskets  
wreathes  
jewelry  
clothes



**AND MORE**



# Member's Page

**MANY THANKS to all who recently renewed their membership, or joined the Chattooga Conservancy. Your generous contributions will help us continue to work on all of the important conservation issues facing the watershed.**

Chris Albonetti

Richard Anderson

Johnny & Rhonda Bailey

Carol Barnes

Bartram Trail Guides

Ms. Carroll Garren Beele

The Belk Company

Karen Bentley

Randy Bigbee

Sam Booher

Ron & Natalie Brabson

Charlie & Kathy Breithaupt

Margaret & Ben Brockman

Richard & Elizabeth Bruce

Charlie & Joanne Bryan

Richard Cain

Jane & Will Carney

Jac Cashin

Frances Allison Close

Mark & Erin Collins

Betty Cook

Cary Cox & David Hart

Rennie Davant

John & Orchid Davis

Kathryn & George Dorn

Lewis Dorn

Buster & Margaret Duncan

Prescott Eaton

Ronald Ellington

Mary Ellis

Jack & Joyce Etheridge

Martha & John Ezzard

**In memory of Bradly Hotard**  
Mary Ventura

Burke Farley

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Farmer

Henry Finkbeiner

Melinda & Mark Fischer

Robert & Jane Foster

Jeff Gillespie & Molly Dullanty

Georgia Organics

Sally Gladden

Tom Glenn

Bill Goodman

Gene Goodwyn

Philip & Mildred Greear

Kim Gruelle

Cary Hall

Judy Hammond

David Hartley

William S. Henry

Dick & Gillian Heywood

Carolyn Hinderliter

Patricia Howell / Botanologos

Timothy & Linda James

Robert Jarrell

Willie Jordan

Ed & Chrissy Kizer

H. M. & Barbara Klausman

Kathryn Kolb

Teresa & Andrew Koransky

Rebekah & George Krivsky

Liz & Marty Kuemmerer

David Land

Dr. S. Robert Lathan

Beth Lilly & Pat Mulherin

Mike Link

Wayne Link

David Mason

Knox Massey

Dan McConaughy

Edward & Jean McDowell

Ray McPhail

Fred McRee

# Member's Page

*MANY THANKS to all who recently renewed their membership, or joined the Chattooga Conservancy. Your generous contributions will help us continue to work on all of the important conservation issues facing the watershed.*

*Gene Merritt*

*Ann Miller*

*Lillian Moore*

*Dan & Phyllis Morse*

*Dr. John Morse*

*Anne Mosby & Jay Haney*

*George Myers*

*Michael Myers*

*Jan & Clay Nash*

*Naturaland Trust*

*David & Cecile Orr*

*Hamilton Osborne*

*Jerry Owen*

*Kincaid & Margaret Patterson*

*Judy & Bart Patton*

*Scott & Bailey Pendergrast*

*Cecilia Queen*

*Tom & Dee Ray*

*Charlie & Susan Read*

*Bill Rich*

*Guynelle Robbins*

*David Rozendale*

*Cathy Sanders*

*Donald Sanders*

*Donald Sanders II*

*Wyatt Saunders*

*Steve Scarborough*

*Karin Schaller*

*Ciannat Howett, Director SELC*

*Frances Seymour*

*Sue Sheehan*

*Angela & George Shiflet*

*Starr & Jeff Silvis*

*Judith Slade*

*Robert & Patricia Stowell*

*Cynthia Strain*

*Lorlei Swanson & Mike Wechter*

*Bill & Shirley Thomas*

*Cecile & Dwayne Thompson*

*George Thomson Jr.*

*William & Mildred Tietjen*

*Timber Ridge Homeowners  
Association*

*Christy & Chris Todd*

*Bob & Jackie Tolford*

*Mike & Joan Walters*

*Randy Wash*

*Elizabeth & Linton Waterhouse*

*Robert Williams & Ann Roberts*

*Arthur & Elaine Wright*

## **SPECIAL THANKS to everyone who donated items for the Solstice Celebration's silent auction:**

Bear Mountain Outfitters  
Betsy Rivard  
Billingsley's Garden Center  
Buck Creek Tavern  
Buds & Blossoms  
Butler's II  
Carol Dearborn  
Chattooga Gardens Fine Plants  
Cheryl Bird  
Claudia Taylor  
Crawford Art Collectibles  
Cyrano's Bookshop  
Eric Orr  
Albert Fendig  
Michael Flecky  
Gloria Daniels  
Grapes & Beans  
Green Thumb Arts  
Hambidge Center  
Highland Hiker  
Honor Woodard  
Jack Johnston  
Jeanie Daves  
Joe Gatins  
John Davis  
Libby Mathews  
Main Street Gallery  
Mama G's  
Mindful Expressions  
MoreSun Custom Woodworking  
MoreSun Designs  
Nancy Garrett  
Patagonia  
Pothole Paddles  
Prater's Main Street Books  
Rootcellar  
Scent-sations  
Southeastern Expeditions  
Summit One  
Susan McKenny  
Old Dillard Florist  
Tiger Mountain Vineyards  
Timpson Creek Gallery  
Warwoman Pottery  
Wildwater Rafting  
Woodall Feed & Seed



# Chattooga Conservancy

## Staff

*Executive Director*  
Buzz Williams

*Development Director*  
Nicole Hayler

*Administrative Assistant*  
Carol Greenberger

*GIS Analyst/ Technical Coordinator*  
Eric Orr

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

## Board of Directors

Dave Barstow  
Claudia Taylor  
Don Sanders  
Robert Zahner  
Glenda Zahner  
Betsy Rivard  
Lew Dorn

Cecile Thompson  
Libby Matthews

## Newsletter

*Editors, Buzz Williams,  
Nicole Hayler,  
& Eric Orr*

*Production and Layout,  
Eric Orr*

*Printing,  
Gap Graphics*

## Endorsing Organizations

Friends of the Mountains  
Western NC Alliance  
SC Forest Watch  
South Carolina Sierra Club  
The Wilderness Society  
Forest Service Employees for  
Environmental Ethics  
Foothills Canoe Club  
Atlanta Whitewater Club  
Georgia Canoeing Association  
Lunatic Apparel

Higgins Hardwood Gear  
A. F. Clewell, Inc  
Atlanta Audubon Society  
National Wildlife Federation  
Action for a Clean Environment  
Georgia Botanical Society  
Georgia Ornithological Society  
Columbia Audubon Society  
The Georgia Conservancy  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Central Georgia River Runners

Arkansas Canoe Club  
Mountain Rest Clipper  
Georgia Environmental Organization  
Timber Framers Guild  
of North America  
Government Accountability Project  
Dagger, Inc.  
Pothole Paddles  
Turpin's Custom Sawmill  
Mill Creek Environmental Services

Renewal ☐

## MEMBERSHIP

Summer 2003

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. number \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please indicate if you would like to receive email notices of the online newsletter in lieu of a paper copy. We do not sell email lists and will keep your info confidential.

Individual: \$15 ☐ Group: \$30 ☐

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Sponsor: \$50 ☐

**Join the CC and help protect the Chattooga River watershed**

Your contribution is greatly appreciated!  
Donations will be used to support the Conservancy's work, and guarantee you delivery of the *Chattooga Quarterly*. We're a non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

**THANK YOU!**

Send to:

*Chattooga Conservancy, Inc.  
2368 Pinnacle Dr.  
Clayton, Georgia 30525*

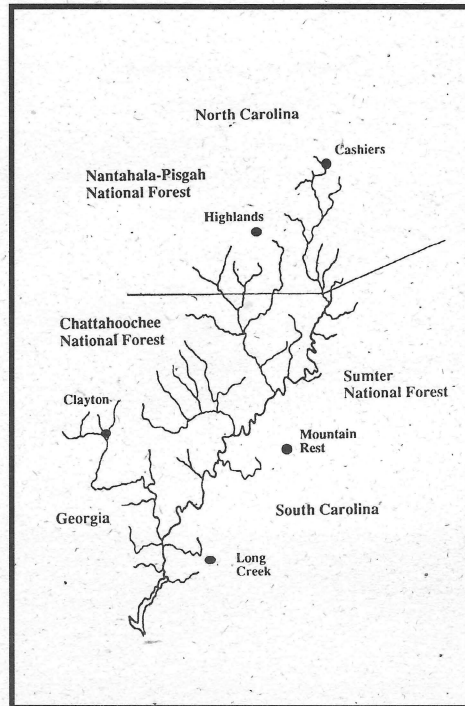
# Chattooga Conservancy

2368 Pinnacle Drive  
Clayton, Georgia 30525

(706) 782-6097 tel. (706) 782-6098 fax crwc@rabun.net Email [www.chattoogariver.org](http://www.chattoogariver.org)

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

**Made Possible By:**  
Members and Volunteers  
Merck Family Fund  
Turner Foundation  
Patagonia, Inc.  
Frances A. Close  
The Sapelo Foundation  
Environmental Systems Research Institute



## Goals:

Monitor the U.S. Forest Service's management of public forest lands in the watershed

Educate the public

Promote public choice based on credible scientific information

Promote public land acquisition by the Forest Service within the watershed

Protect remaining old growth and roadless areas

Work cooperatively with the Forest Service to develop a sound ecosystem initiative for the watershed

Chattooga Conservancy  
2368 Pinnacle Dr.  
Clayton, GA 30525

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

*Address Service Requested*



printed on recycled paper  
100% post-consumer waste