



The mission of South River Watershed Alliance is to protect and restore the water quality and biodiversity of the South River watershed to the beneficial use of people and wildlife.

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South River Dam at Sugar Creek Golf Center

After two years of waiting for work to begin to repair the riverbank destroyed by an illegal dam built by DeKalb County, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") has decided that nothing needs to be done.

The dam blocked South River disrupting its natural flow causing intense scouring and massive erosion of the riverbank from rushing stormwater. Left behind is a gaping hole in the riverbank where dozens of trees once stood. One by one these trees collapsed into the river as the soil that held them in place eroded away. Today, only two mature trees remain and without stabilization they too will collapse.

The Corps' actions ignore the negative impact that eroded soil has on the river. Sediment settles into the river, smothering spawning beds of fish, killing aquatic organisms, and ruining water quality.

It will take decades for South River to heal itself. Stabilization is required to help reduce current erosion as well as speed future recovery. To do nothing to mitigate the impact of the destruction is short-sighted and ignores the importance and benefits of riverbank stabilization.

SRWA has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to the Corps to review plans submitted by DeKalb County to repair the riverbank. These plans will be made available to the public after they are received. SRWA urges the Corps to reconsider their decision in light of their mission of "protecting the nation's water resources."

Saturday, July 13 - [Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing](#) - SOLD OUT

The next outing is August 24, 2013. Information on the August canoe outing is below.

South River Tire Roundup - Cancelled

The Wet and Scenic South River Tire Roundup scheduled Saturday, July 20 is cancelled and will be rescheduled during the Rivers Alive clean up later this summer.

Saturday, August 17, 5:30 AM - [Power of Flight Bird Banding Field Trip](#)

Join SRWA on August 17 for a field trip to the Power of Flight area of South River to learn more about bird banding and the restoration work that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is doing to benefit bird conservation and the river.

Saturday, August 24, 9:00 AM - [Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing](#)

SRWA's Beyond the Bridge canoe outings continue to be a hit. Canoeing experience is not required to participate but you should be physically able to paddle for an extended period without tiring. The cost of the event is \$30 per person which includes canoe rental, insurance, and lunch.

South River Jamboree - October 5, 2013

SRWA urgently needs the community to support its annual fundraiser. Individual tickets for South River Jamboree are \$30 and can be purchased on the SRWA [website](#). More details below.

Upcoming Events at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve

Saturday July 20, 3:00 PM - [Basic Canoe Clinic](#)

Join a certified park ranger and learn how to safely use a canoe on beautiful Alexander Lake. Register in advance by calling the Nature Center at 770-389-7801. There is a cost of \$15 plus \$5 parking.

Saturday, July 20, 1:00 PM - [Tree Top Excursions: Introduction Climb](#)

Join the rangers at Panola "on the rope" for an adventure exploring the canopy above. Participants will use rope and harness for this moderately strenuous activity.

The Dirt-y Truth

Keeping dirt out of South River is one of the best and least expensive ways to improve the river's water quality. Dirt that washes into the river from construction sites, commonly referred to as "silt", is one of the most common yet preventable sources of pollution. **Silt from Georgia's red clay is the reason South River turns red when it rains**



DeKalb County construction site on South River without silt fencing

heavily. Construction sites are required to install silt fencing and when installed correctly it allows stormwater runoff to seep through while keeping dirt on the site. [Email](#) South River Watershed Alliance to report construction site silt fencing violations.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker
Credit:US Fish & Wildlife Service



Power of Flight Bird Banding Field Trip

The Power of Flight area of Panola is in the north-facing peninsula of the South River. Year-round, approximately twice a month, a group of dedicated bird enthusiasts gather at this site to band birds. The goal of

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the Power of Flight Program, supported by the Southern Company, is to address the conservation needs of high priority bird species characteristic of the southern United States, such as red-cockaded woodpecker, Northern bobwhite quail, coastal shorebirds and other imperiled bird species.

Weather permitting, capture nets open at 5:30 a.m. and remain open until approximately 12 noon. Join SRWA on August 17 for a field trip to the Power of Flight area of South River to learn more about bird banding and the restoration work that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources is doing to benefit bird conservation and the river. Be on the lookout for an invitation to sign up.

For additional bird banding dates and times contact Charlie Muise at cmmbirds@yahoo.com for details.

the SRWA website.

Information about sponsorship opportunities is posted on the [SRWA website](#). Businesses and individuals who want to donate can also contribute online. **South River Jamboree** will take place at the historic Lithonia Woman's Club, October 5, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Please join us for a spirited evening in celebration of South River and enjoy good food, music, wine, and a silent auction. The Lithonia Woman's Club is located at 2564 Wiggins Street in downtown Lithonia, Georgia.



Get regular updates on SRWA activities and learn more about what we do. Follow SRWA on Twitter and connect with us on Facebook. Links to our pages are just below.

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