



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.

May 2013

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South River

**A Story in Photos: Volunteers Help Rewrite
South River's Story**



Earth Day Volunteers

Stories are important for a lot of reasons. Among other things, they help us put things in perspective as well as educate and inspire. But stories are most important to South River because we have the opportunity to write our own. On Saturday, April 20th, forty-eight volunteers participated in rewriting the story of the South River. Students from Arabia Mountain High School, friends from Friends of Constitution Lakes, members of the Marist High School soccer team, students from Georgia Perimeter College, and member and supporters of SRWA with the help of a DeKalb County Sanitation Department crew contributed to the unfolding tale. They all joined together in recognition of Earth Day to pick up hundreds of plastic bottles, countless Styrofoam and plastic containers, aluminum cans, and about every other type of debris imaginable from South River at Constitution Lakes, Panola Shoals, Panthersville Road and Waldrop Road. With every bag of trash, piece of rubble, and spent tire removed these volunteers contributed to a new chapter in South River's future.

Photographs help to visualize words and those shown [here](#) speak volumes about inspiration, commitment, camaraderie, and results all of which make South River's story possible. Restoring South River is a big job, much too big for any one person or organization. Volunteers are helping to turn the page. The river's story will have many authors and the revised version will only briefly speak of its past struggles because the message of survival and 'thrival' with the help of a multitude of volunteers is the one that is most in need of telling.



Kayaks and canoes at South River



CEO Burrell Ellis on South River

Take Action for South River

SRWA urges supporters of South River throughout DeKalb County to make an in person appeal, place a phone call and/or send an email to CEO Burrell Ellis and your BOC representatives and ask them to show their support by actively supporting two important SRWA initiatives:

1. The first will create **better and safer access to South River through the construction of canoe/kayak put in and takeout ramps**. There are state funds available to do the work but the county must apply for these funds.
2. The second initiative focuses on achieving **water trail designation for South River**. A water trail provides connections to an area's diverse history, ecology, geology, and wildlife and can contribute to economic development and protect resources that are important to the quality of life of local residents.

After contacting your elected representatives, send a quick email to southriverwatershedalliance@gmail.com to let us know that you took action to help South River.

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Upcoming Events

Saturday, May 18, 9:00AM - [Beyond the Bridge Canoe Outing](#) Panola Shoals Trailhead (Panola and Snapfinger Roads)

Register now to experience the awe inspiring natural beauty of South River. Additional event details can be found on the website.

SAVE THE DATE!

South River Jamboree - October 5, 2013

Mark your calendars! South River Watershed Alliance's first annual South River Jamboree will happen on October 5th. Initial details are below.

Upcoming Events at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve:

Saturday, May 11, 9:00AM - 2:00PM, [Moms at the Mountain](#)

A pre-Mother's Day event for the whole family.

Saturday, May 11, 11:00AM - 12:30PM - [Healthy Cooking Demo](#) with chef Deborah Summerville and Shelton Fleming of Wonderland Gardens.

Don't forget to register for the next South River paddle on Saturday, May 18th. Come experience the serenity and natural beauty of one of Georgia's hidden gems. A light lunch will be served after the trip.

[Register](#) today!

Where It All Begins for South River

When most people think of headwaters they think of mountain creeks. Not so for South River because it is truly an urban river. There is no tree laden forest, park, protected greenspace, or other natural setting that would form a fitting backdrop. South River begins as a network of small upstream tributaries just north of Hartsfield-Jackson

International Airport. The actual tributaries were

placed in pipes and covered over during an earlier period of urban development. But even today, extensive sections of South River are day-lighted or appear above ground. South River emerges into daylight from two large "barrel" culverts along



Headwaters of South River

busy Norman Berry Drive in East Point easily visible to people who walk along this street every day.

There are many interesting aspects of South River near its headwaters. One is the size and volume of water in the streams in comparison to what people may see only a short distance downstream. This expansion occurs as the headwater stream channel collects more water from other creeks and streams along its route.

Over the summer look for more photographs and attention-grabbing information about South River upstream.

South River Jamboree Fundraiser

This is a community-wide invitation to join South River Watershed Alliance for ***South River Jamboree***, a celebration of South River. The event will be held at the Lithonia Women's Club, 2564 Wiggins Street, in downtown Lithonia, Georgia, **October 5, 2013** from 7:00 to 10:00PM.



You will be treated to a memorable evening of music, wine, delicious hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and an opportunity to meet folks like yourself who enthusiastically support South River. Tickets for the event are only \$30 and will go on sale July 1.

Please mark your calendar for ***South River Jamboree*** and watch for additional information in future issues of this newsletter.

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.