

# FOOTPRINTS & PADDLEDRIPS

Volume 2, Issue 6, August 2000



## The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association

### Upcoming Events

Remember there is no meeting in August. The Association also does not meet in April and December. For information on the September meeting, please refer to the next edition of Footprints and Paddledrips.

---

*Reminder: There will not be a meeting in August. We will meet September 19.*

---

*Articles of interest should be sent to the newsletter editor by the last Monday of each month.*

### July Meeting Notes

The July meeting was held at the Wingate Inn near Savannah with Beth Nunley of Tootsy Tours serving as host. She offered the services of their expert guides for walking tours of Savannah's Historic District in the afternoon. The featured speaker was Chip Campbell, new co-owner with wife Joy, of the Suwannee Canal Recreation Area which serves as a concessionaire for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge. During the morning session he gave the audience an overview of the business of nature-based tourism, and led a discussion period in which those present shared

their ideas on how businesses and other agencies can meet the needs of the visitor who seeks to experience the natural wonders of our state. Key suggestions included: don't undervalue your services (a quality experience is worth it); establish a variety of nontraditional private partnerships (canoe outfitters with timber companies owning riverside property); utilize the state's personnel & programs (trail specialists); and create unique package deals that are more than just two discounts put together (give visitors a reason to order through you.)

### Directory Revision

Final touches are being made on the newly combined membership and resource directory which should be available in September. It will contain a list of all current members with all updated information. Also, there will be more detailed information about each member, thanks to the many brochures and handouts which were received for our information file.

Directories will hopefully be updated every January and July, and the newsletter will print complete listings for each new member and any changes to entries of previous entries.

*The Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association  
Box 305  
Folkston, GA 31537*

#### *Association Officers*

*Sheila Willis, President  
912-285-0419  
Lynn Carter, Vice-President  
912-367-7731  
Beth Nunley, Treasurer  
912-232-0032  
Jeremy Hill, Secretary  
912-681-0872*

*School is back in session.  
Remember to drive  
carefully and watch for  
children crossing the  
road.*



# President's Message

By Sheila Willis

This has been a year in which a variety of projects have been on the GNBTA's schedule. In our efforts to complete these, we have had the pleasure of working with many individuals and businesses. Some of these were not members of the Association, but they nonetheless worked hard to help us meet our goals. As we wind down some projects, or move into a different phase, we should send our thanks to these partners. These include: Brantley Printing Company, Sam Collier, Mal Hodges, Dr. Phyllis Isley, Carry Long, Todd Schneider and Terry Turner. In addition, Richard Lenz and Pam Holliday, of Lenz Design and Communications, later joined our ranks as members. You all have our heartfelt appreciation and thanks.

## Suwannee River Canoe Excursion

Plans are being made for a GNBTA-sponsored canoe excursion on the Upper Suwannee River on Saturday, Sept. 30 that will put the spotlight on efforts being made for its protection, and provide a way for the public to both enjoy and learn more about this scenic waterway. Public Relations Chair Joy Campbell, and Environmental Advisory Committee members Jim Burkhardt and Chip Campbell are working towards final arrangements which hope to include participation and/or

cosponsorship by several other organizations and entities such as the Upper Suwannee River Watershed Initiative, GA Department of Natural Resources, Stephen C. Foster State park, and the City of Fargo. The tentative schedule would include short programs by guest speakers, and the excursion itself would involve canoeists paddling the river from Griffis Fish Camp to Fargo, water levels permitting. Watch for the September newsletter for final details.

## Altamaha River Rat Run Canoe Excursion

The Altamaha River Rat Run Canoe Excursion sponsored by the Appling County and Wayne County Boards of Tourism will be held October 7.

For further details, contact Tourism Director Lynn Carter at 912-367-7731. Also refer to the September newsletter for more information.

## Reminders

### Bring your mug!

Don't forget to bring your coffee mug to association meetings to enjoy our early morning coffee and talk time! By providing your own mug at each meeting, you will help eliminate the use of Styrofoam, a major polluter of the environment.

### Membership Drive

If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining the Georgia Nature-Based Tourism Association, contact Lynn Carter with the information. Lynn's number is 912-367-7731, and her E-mail is [lcarter@applingdacoc.com](mailto:lcarter@applingdacoc.com).

### Hosts are Needed for 2001

Next year will be here before we know it, and planning is underway for future meetings. If you would like to host an Association gathering in your town, please let us know by calling Sheila Willis at (912) 285-0419. We meet the third Tuesday of each month except for April, August and December. It's a great way to show off the natural beauty and cultural charm of your area, and introduce your local nature-based tourism businesses to the membership and other interested individuals.

### Send Us Your Events

If you have, or know of, any nature-based events, festivals, classes, conferences, etc. that would be of interest to association members, contact the editor by the newsletter deadline. The newsletter deadline for items is the last Monday of each month. Please include your phone number and e-mail address.

### Association Scrapbook

We are collecting media coverage, photos and other news and information about association events for a scrapbook that will be available for viewing at the general meeting. Send items of interest to the Post Office Box or bring them to a meeting.

### Member Contacts

Bring your business cards and brochures to meetings to introduce yourself to fellow business owners, visitor center reps, chambers of commerce, etc. Use this opportunity to network with others who can help send business your way.



*Step on it. Don't water your lawn if it passes the step test. Step on the lawn—if the grass springs back up, it does not need water.*

## Year 2000 Schedule

Association meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, except for April, August and December.

Note: All dates and locations are subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Watch the newsletter for any updates.

September 19 - Jekyll Island Villa Ospo  
October 17 - Stephen Foster State Park  
November 21 - General Coffee State Park

The Association attempts to highlight different areas of the state by moving the meetings to a new location each month. Thanks to all who have generously offered to be hosts. If you would like to host a future meeting, please contact Sheila Willis.

## Environmental News

### Georgia Power considers new nuclear power

*From the Florida Times Union*

MACON--Georgia Power might be one of the first U.S. utilities to consider using new nuclear technology. With just two nuclear plants in its system, Georgia Power, a subsidiary of Atlanta-based Southern Co., depends on aging coal-fired power plants, increasingly the targets of state and federal environmental agencies.

Georgia Power is switching to less-polluting natural gas as fast as it can. But it expects demand to skyrocket in the next two decades, making gas too costly to use for power generation.

That leaves little time to find a new source of electricity for a growing state.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently approved two designs for reactors that are smaller, cheaper and less complicated than today's models. Regulators say they also would be safer, with fewer mechanisms that could malfunction. Several other countries already have such reactors.

### Wood product company to spend more than \$90 million to settle Clean Air Act case

*From PR Newswire*

WASHINGTON—Willamette Industries will spend more than \$90 million to settle a major environmental suit alleging that it failed to control the amount of air pollution released from its wood product factories in four states, under an agreement reached on July 20 with the Justice Department and the EPA.

The settlement, filed in U.S. District Court in Portland, Oregon, requires the company install state-of-the-art pollution controls at 13 facilities in Arkansas, Oregon, Louisiana and South Carolina. The company

## Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following new members. We look forward to working with you.

Betty Smith & Carl Glenn  
Okfenokee Inn Bed & Breakfast  
Folkston, Georgia  
1-888-440-3918

## Send Us Your Information

Member information is need for the Association web site and reference file. Please send two sets of all your printed information, such as brochures, hand-outs, etc. Send all information to the P.O. Box. Please include your phone number and e-mail address.

The company hopes to keep running its existing nuclear plants for decades. It has requested license renewals for two of its plants.

But those plants supply less than a fourth of Georgia Power's electricity -- a lower percentage than in nearby states -- and that number will fall as the state grows.

This makes new nuclear technology a possibility for the utility which worries some environmental groups like Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia. While burning coal is efficient and cheaper, it also releases gases that can cause health problems.

But Rita Kilpatrick, president of Campaign for a Prosperous Georgia says that storing nuclear waste will be dangerous and expensive.

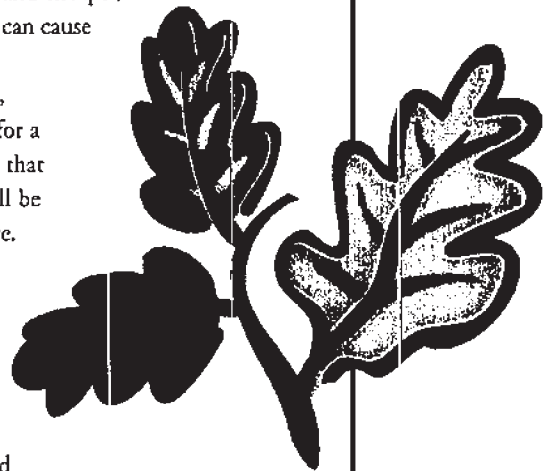
"There's nothing clean about nuclear waste," she said.

also must pay an \$11.2 million penalty -- the largest ever assessed

for factory emissions of air pollution. The agreement also requires the Portland-based company to spend an additional \$8 million on environmental projects.

"This settlement will improve air quality for thousands of people who live around these factories," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "Willamette must now take responsibility and curb its pollution, so these factories will not pose a health risk."

*Keep the bugs out...and the water in by covering your swimming pool and potentially saving 1000 gallons of water per month from evaporation*



*Bag the charcoal. Lignin fluid is a key smog producer, so either upgrade to a gas grill or use an electric starter.*

# Member News

## Jennifer Rachels

Jennifer Rachels, who is now serving in the Peace Corps in Romania, sent a message to Lynn Carter stating that she will be a champion grant writer when she returns. Here is part of her message:

"The most fun part of Peace Corps is just living. Everyone knows me, and it takes me an hour to walk 100 yards because everyone wants to talk to me. Everytime I go tot the farmer's market to buy veggies, I have to talk to every vendor; (all of this is translated into English for you non-Romanian speakers) 'My name is Jennifer...I'm from Georgia...no, not the Soviet republic, the state, I'm from America...nooo, I'm not from Los Angeles...nooo, I'm not from New York...I'm from Georgia...nooooo, not Russia, AMERICA. OK, do you know Atlanta, Olympics?...no, OK, ummm...Martin Luther King?...no...? Coke! Do you know Coke? YES, great, OK, Coke is from Atlanta, Atlanta is in Georgia... noooo, not Russia, we already went over this... OK people, do you know Florida? no... what about Disneyland? You know where that is? YES, OK, I'm from Disneyland.'"   
You may send her email at [j\\_rachels@mailcity.com](mailto:j_rachels@mailcity.com)

## Wayne Davis and Carolyn Hodges

Member Carlton Wayne Davis, 60, of Darien died July 28 at the local hospital in Darien. Member Carolyn Hodges also passed away. Both were very active in conservation, especially for the Altamaha River. They had received numerous awards recently for their efforts. She owned Open Gate Bed and Breakfast, and she and Wayne owned Open Gates Tours.

## George Marshall

Stephen C. Foster State Park's Superintendent George Marshall has transferred to Elijah Clark State Park. We wish him well in his new job.

## Billy Brantley and Tina Rowell

Obediah's Okefenokee owner Billy Brantley and manager Tina Rowell, announce that a new gift shop will soon be ready for visitors' use at this famous historic site. This facility will be located near the attraction's entranceway at the main parking lot. In addition, those buildings which were damaged by last year's fire have been completely renovated. They invite everyone to come over and visit this South Georgia attraction which showcases the life and world of Okefenokee Swamp pioneer Obediah Barber.



*According to the EPA, "oil from just one oil change is enough to contaminate a million gallons of fresh water." To recycle used motor oil and transmission fuel, take them to a service station, drop off location, or household hazardous waste collection site. Keep all fluids separate.*

Georgia Nature-Based  
Tourism Association  
P.O. Box 305  
Folkston, GA 31537

Sheila Willis, President  
912-285-0419  
Lynn Carter, Vice-  
President  
912-367-7731  
Beth Nunley, Treasurer  
912-232-0032  
Jeremy Hill, Secretary  
912-681-0872