

# SOUTHEASTERN TRUST FOR PARKS AND LAND, INC.



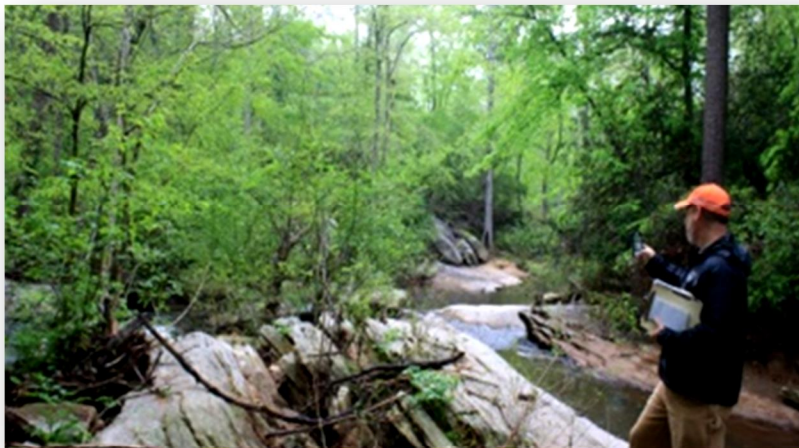
Spring 2015 Newsletter

## From the Executive Director

Bill Jones [bill.jones@stpal.org](mailto:bill.jones@stpal.org)

Spring is here and the STPAL properties are full of life. The pictures below are from The Boot Nature Preserve in Douglas County, Georgia. These boulders in the creek separate our parking area from the trail system. A big challenge we face is making it easy to cross the creek. We could use some help determining how to make this happen. I point this out for a couple of reasons. First, we can always use help removing trash, maintaining trails, and other basic tasks. But we also frequently need help for complex and interesting projects and processes. Please let me know if you would like to assist in any way as we work to transform our properties into public parks.

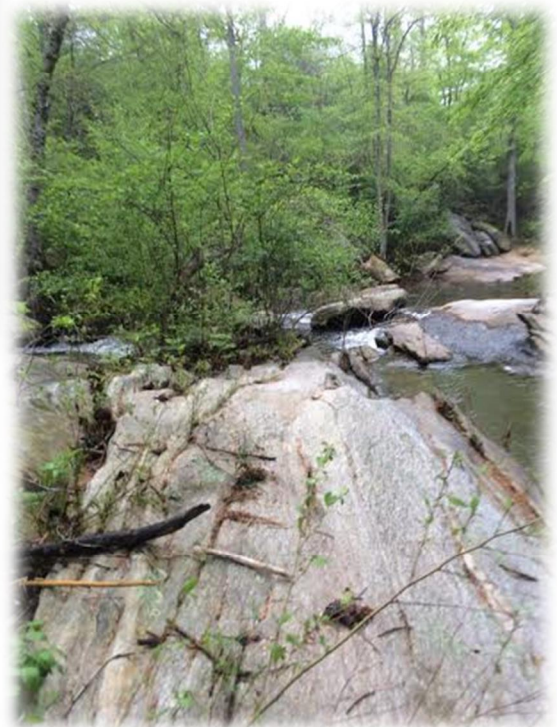
STPAL is a 501-C-3 organization dedicated to conserving land and making it available for responsible public use. Join us at <http://www.stpal.org/>



### Join Our Mission of Conserving Land!

Want to join STPAL and help support our mission of conserving land? Simply visit our website at [www.stpal.org/donate](http://www.stpal.org/donate) to become a member.

Annual memberships begin at only \$20!



## Meet Tracie Sanchez

### Featured Board Member

I've been riding bikes, hiking mountains and paddling rivers all my life. Being on a trail makes for wonderful escapes, new adventures and challenges, new friends, staying healthy and connecting with nature. And great photo memories.

Earning my Masters of Public Administration at UGA late in life allowed me to focus on which public policy I wanted to champion. Being part of the effort to build a world-class network of connected trails in every corner of Georgia is a cause I believe in deeply.

The first thing I did as an undergrad in 1985 was sell my car and become a bicycle commuter to campus. I still had that bike 24 years later when I returned to UGA for my masters' in public administration. I caught trail fever in Athens biking the greenway, helping the Firefly Trail incorporate as a non-profit, and collaborating on a graduate project in Hartwell that led to inventorying regional greenspaces with UGA landscape architecture students.

Clearly, alternative transportation solutions involving active living are my passion. Eight years at UGA as a program coordinator for the Leonard Leadership Scholars and one-on-one chats with mentor Earl Leonard taught me a thing or two about leading an effort. So with a background in graphic design, leadership development, a public policy degree, and spare time during the job search, I reached out to all the trail hounds I knew in Georgia, and began to build a network.



Tracie Sanchez was one of STPAL's Found Board Members and is currently on STPAL's Advisory Board. In addition, she leads a dedicated team of volunteer trailblazers planning the second annual Georgia Trail Summit. So far, we've raised \$20,000 with 35 sponsors,

## Making Old Connections New

It's funny how things come full circle. Over 25 years ago at the University of Georgia, I was friends with a fellow student with whom I had lost contact. We reconnected through social media a few years ago and when I put out a plea in the winter asking for help publishing this newsletter, my old friend from college volunteered her time and skills to get this newsletter published for our donors. You may have a skill that we could use. Or a little extra time. Our success depends on the generosity of our donors and the volunteer mind-set. If you have the desire to help make a difference in the conservations efforts throughout the southeast and are available to help in some way, please contact me at any time! In the meantime, join me in thanking Sharon Jenkins for her time.

Bill

## Find STPAL near you:

*Do you know how much we've grown?*

Since December 2012, Southeastern Trust for Parks and Land has acquired 17 tracts of land totaling over 5,500 acres. Our properties stretch from the very SE corner of Georgia to the NW tip of North Carolina. STPAL is working hard to conserve land and make it available for public use near you.

