

Video	Audio
	<p>>>HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO TAKE SOME ACTION AND HELP CONSERVE OUR NATURAL RESOURCES?</p> <p>>>ON THIS PROGRAM, WE`LL SHOW YOU LOTS OF WAYS TO HELP US.</p> <p>>>COMING UP NEXT ON GEORGIA OUTDOORS.</p>
	<p>>>I would define conserve-action as taking a direct role in helping the environment..</p> <p>>>Conservation is just...(laughs)</p> <p>>>Conservation? I honestly don't know.</p> <p>>>Conservation means getting involved.</p> <p>>>Conservation? What? Did I say that? I have no idea what that is.</p>
	<p>>>CONSERVATION MAN: CONSERVATION IS VOLUNTEERING AT ONE OF THE WONDERFUL NATURE CENTERS HERE IN GEORGIA.</p>
	<p>>>Purcell: Well good morning everybody, I'm Charles Purcell. I'm a volunteer here at the nature center. We're about to go on a guided trail walk is one of the things that I do.</p> <p>>>McGlendon: The Chattahoochee Nature Center has been here for over 25 years. We're right on the banks of the Chattahoochee River right here in Roswell, Georgia. The Chattahoochee Nature Center is a wonderful treasure to the Atlanta area.</p> <p>>>Purcell (to group): This is what I to call a Cattail Marsh because cattails are the predominant things that you see here.</p> <p>>>McGlendon: We have 130 acres of land here and it offers a place for people to come and hike, learn more about the native plants and animals of the area, and really just enjoy themselves.</p> <p>>>Purcell: I've been volunteering here for going on two years; between a year and a half and two years, and it is just a wonderful thing. I do guided trail walks on the weekends and I also do docenting, which is teaching at our various wildlife exhibits on the campus here at the nature center.</p> <p>(to group)>> ...and barred owls are native species to Georgia. They're one of the larger owls that live here.</p> <p>>>Umm, the docent program is something that's extremely important to the nature center. So often times, people come out here on the weekends and on weekdays to walk around the grounds, to enjoy the time with their families, to learn a little bit more about the wildlife and the plants. The docents that are here, they offer something to these visitors that we couldn't do just as staff. They're able to greet them as they come in. They're able to tell them a little bit more. It really enriches the experience that people have here at the nature center.</p> <p>I love to do it. About last year, at the beginning of last year I had a lot of free time on my hands and I started thinking I'd really like to start doing some volunteer work for something that's worthwhile. I drove over, asked somebody, "Do you ever need volunteers?" And of course their answer was, "Do we ever need volunteers?! Yes! Please come help." So it didn't too long. I jumped right in and picked up and here I am. It's a lot of fun.</p> <p>>>McGlendon: We have many other opportunities at the nature center. In fact there's something to fit into every role. There's a wonderful group of horticulture gardeners. They take care of a lot of the plants in the greenhouse,</p>

	<p>help with watering, help with weeding, help with planting. They're not just in here pulling weeds but they're also learning more about the native plants that exist here in Georgia and learning more about the cultural ways of raising those plants.</p> <p>>>Griffith: I retired 5 years ago and wanted to do some volunteer work and I had been to the plant sales at the nature center and thought it was a neat place. And I came and I come here sometimes 5 days a week. I do it because I like it. It makes me happy and I like gardening and I like the people here and I think that I make a difference.</p>
	<p>>>May: I'm Linda May and I'm a wildlife interpretive specialist here at Charlie Elliot Wildlife Center, and part of my job is to coordinate the volunteers out here. And we have lots of volunteer opportunities. This is a big area. In fact we have 6400 acres here. It's a wildlife management area combined with a public fishing area and a wildlife education center. This is our volunteer corner. It's in the classroom at the visitors center here. Depending on your personality, if you're more of a shy person, we might hook you up with something in the office or if you just love to be outdoors in nature then we might have you work on the trail such as one of our volunteers, Mike Riter.</p> <p>>>(to Riter): So you're going to show me how it's done?</p> <p>>>(to May): Yeah, and bear with me a minute because I'm really concerned about safety so I gotta get my gloves on and my safety glasses out. This is a Pulaski and this is what we use for doing the initial cutting.</p> <p>>>Riter: One of the roles I play here is working with volunteers on how to maintain the trails here. Our main focus, or my main focus when I'm working with the volunteers is safety. I want to make sure that not only is everybody going to have a good time and accomplish something, but do it safely. I think everybody that uses the trails has a responsibility to give something back. I love being outdoors, and just being out in nature is just—it's such a peaceful feeling and that's probably the best part about it.</p> <p>>>White: My name is Winston White and I'm a volunteer here on Charlie Elliot primarily for the kids' fishing programs.</p> <p>>>May: Winston is just full of energy. He's full of life. He's so ready to help all the time. I never have to ask for help from him. He just shows up. He's ready and willing to help out. And he's a quiet person but you can tell he really gets a lot of satisfaction from being here. He's always looking for better ways to do something that we've got. In fact he's working on some of our bird pens. We've had a real need for some new bird pen facilities for our outreach program, animals; some non-releasable birds that need a place to stay in between school visits. And he's been instrumental in that project.</p> <p>>>White: It just comes from a selfish standpoint because I enjoy it. And if I can help in some way I try to do as much as I can.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Conservation is about keeping our green spaces green...and clean!</p> <p>>>Morrell: I'm here because it makes me feel good to get out and to work hard and sweat and do something good for my neighborhood.</p> <p>>>Cuthbertson: The Grant Park Conservancy is a part of a network of park advocates and park conservancies around the country really. We're working with huge numbers of volunteers to come in and help get involved in the park and make it something special. And that's what we hope to do here in Grant Park. One way that you can get people to commit is through "sweat equity." When they come in and they work and they see what their hands do in the park, it makes a big difference in how they feel about the park and how they advocate for the park. Over the past two years we have planted about 2000 trees. We have spread out probably 20 tons of mulch as well as just some general maintenance on facilities, trying to keep roadways and pathways clear and clean and make it a pleasant environment for people when they come here.</p> <p>>>Morrell: Ivy grows really fast so we have to get out here quite often and pull it back, get it back out of the plants that we planted. If you can't pull ivy, we have room for people to help plant and other things that will help us in the long</p>

	<p>run. Many parks need a lot of help. You should find one in your neighborhood and do what you can to help. If there is no organization, maybe start an organization.</p> <p>>>Cuthbertson: You want to be in touch with the authorities who actually own the park and tell them what you'd like to do, and then begin to tell people what you want to do, communicate your message and get out there and network with similar organizations. And our green spaces are those places where we can escape and enjoy something other than the strict concrete urban environment. We're in an urban forest basically, and an urban forest does not have the ability to restore itself, so we, as humans, because we use these parks and these green spaces, we have to take that role and make sure that we work to restore it.</p>
	<p>>>Hawthorne: I like to volunteer with Trees Atlanta because it's a lot of fun and we get to do something that's really good for the environment and for the quality of life in Atlanta.</p> <p>>>Kramb: Every week we have about 40 to 50 volunteers come out. Many of them are regulars.</p> <p>>>Cochran: I enjoy being a volunteer. I've done it about 3 years.</p> <p>>>We get to go outside and get dirty, work with really great people, get to see all parts of the city.</p> <p>>>Levine: Trees Atlanta is a non-profit organization that plants and conserves trees. In the winter and fall we plant trees mainly. In the spring and summer, which it's summer now, we mulch and prune and water trees. All the trees that we've planted in the prior season we take care of. Every Saturday morning, we wake up real early and meet the volunteers at 9 at different projects. We couldn't do this without volunteers basically.</p> <p>>>Cochran: I enjoy volunteering with Trees Atlanta. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet people as well as help the environment.</p> <p>>>Yeah we wear our t-shirts when we work on Saturdays, and a lot of people come by and see us working and they've heard of Trees Atlanta and a lot of people yell "Thanks" or "Great work" or that kind of thing. It's really good, makes you feel like you're doing something good.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Sometimes more than one volunteer group gets together to double the conservation.</p> <p>>>Pretty little stream. >>This stream is in good shape</p> <p>>>Mayer: I'm a volunteer for Georgia Adopt A Stream. We do chemical and biological monitoring. I monitor the big and little Amicalola Creek. I funnel my data to the Upper Etowah River Alliance</p> <p>>>Contrell: If someone cares enough about their local stream, they can be an Adopt A Stream volunteer to monitor its quality, monitor the health of the stream.</p> <p>>>Mayer: In the chemical monitoring, I take samples and we have a test kit. I take onsite tests of all the different parameters.</p> <p>>>Stoughton: I have been in the Etowah for two years and basically it's my job to implement a grant where we're doing demonstration projects around a watershed to show how we can reduce non-point source pollution. And I also work with our local watershed groups to figure out how to protect the biological diversity of the Etowah watershed. The volunteers from the Adopt A Stream program, they generally do a chemical monitoring once a month. And then when they do a biological monitoring, they actually assess the number of insects and the kinds of insects because the numbers of insects that live in our stream are a really good indicator of the health of that stream.</p> <p>>>Ray: Being a volunteer gives you a reason not to complain. You can actually do something. A volunteer can make a difference. One phone call can actually make a difference. How can you complain about it when you're not really willing</p>

	<p>to do anything about it? >>So on the average, the water here is probably 3.3 inches.</p> <p>>>Rottenberg: Normally what I do is I help Adopt A Stream with the biological workshops, but I also like to help out with other groups such as the Nature Conservancy. We're helping with exotic species removal or any other type of activities that they need help with.</p> <p>>>Stoughton: Well the Nature Conservancy actually has volunteers here in the Etowah. Definitely one of the—a big threat in the state of Georgia is invasive exotic plants and we have many volunteer days where people go out and actually remove invasive exotics like privet, like honeysuckle, like English ivy, like water hyacinth because they out-compete the native vegetation, so it's really helpful to rip that stuff out and let the native plants try and come back and reestablish because they are the food source for our native wildlife. So there are lots and lots of opportunities to volunteer with the Nature Conservancy here in Georgia and really get people involved and help doing their part to help protect the amazing places that we work to protect.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Conservation isn't only about joining groups. What we do at home is just as important.</p> <p>>>Hackler: I'm Jim Hackler. I'm the director of the Earth Craft House Program, which is one of the sustainability programs we have here at Southface Energy Institute. One thing that people have a misperception is they think conservation or environmental that it's say the Wildlife Fund or great organizations like Trees Atlanta, but one of the biggest impacts they can have is their choice of home and what they do around their house.</p> <p>>>George Dusenbury: The first thing we did to reduce our impact on the environment was to go around and see what cheap things we could do to reduce our consumption of water. The low-flow showerhead, which is something that cost 8 or 9 dollars. That is a hole I put in the ceiling when I was putting insulation up there and the insulation will probably pay for itself in about 3 years without the hole and maybe about 3 years and a week or two with the hole I put in it.</p> <p>>>Courtenay Dusenbury: Some of the things that I do: hanging laundry out on the line and saving all the boxes and the milk cartons and recycling them in a compost pile. Usually what we do is we put it first on the pile there and we allow it to compost. After we put the food, we'll put some dried leaves on top of that. And then when it gets sufficiently gooky, we'll put it inside of a barrel. They're more time-consuming than just doing it the regular way, but I'm happy to do it. I'm concerned about the environment and want to make sure we're doing our part.</p> <p>>>Hackler: One of the biggest impacts we have on the environment is building a new home, so we at Southface Energy Institute try to teach people how they can lessen that environmental footprint. Here's a really cool one. It's called a tubular skylight and it brings in the light from the sun and it's great for a closet. Things like solar screens. It can cool down your house. Air sealant is also very, very important. Just go around and spray. If you can see the outside through it, you're having some real problems as far as the air sitting with that. This is called a structural insulated panel. Here's a really cool thing. This goes up in your attic. It's called a radiant barrier, and the sun is reflected away and it makes the attic much, much cooler. It can really help with the energy bills. So these are just all techniques on just building a smarter environmental home.</p> <p>>>Kilpatrick: The Dusenburys have made a special effort to set up solar panels on their home.</p> <p>>>George Dusenbury: And this really is the only investment that we made that was a real financial burden.</p> <p>>>Courtenay Dusenbury: Well at first I was a little bit concerned about the cost but I weighted the other factors, the benefits to the environment and felt that it was a good investment for us.</p> <p>>>George Dusenbury: And this is a rain barrel. What it does is it catches the</p>

	<p>rain that comes out of the gutter and you can use it for watering and you can avoid all the watering bans because it's your water.</p> <p>>>Kilpatrick: Every little bit counts and what the Dusenburys have done is exemplary. It's such a wonderful model of what the home can do to make a difference.</p> <p>>>Hackler: You sometimes don't make the connection to the pollution aspect, but 40% of our air pollution in Atlanta is from the generation of electricity from buildings.</p> <p>>>Another thing which I highly recommend is to just ride your bike to work or just ride your bike whenever. That way you get your exercise. You never get stuck in traffic. It's actually a very enjoyable experience.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Conservation is about reducing impact on the environment.</p> <p>>>Hoffarth: Atlanta Bicycle Campaign is about a 10- or 11-year-old organization now. We are working basically to make cycling safer and more enjoyable in the metro Atlanta area. That's what we're all about. We have basically a 3-prong program. One is to promote bicycling in itself.</p> <p>>>Barron: Tonight we had a short ride and we'll have an informational meeting. We have a social one Thursday of every month.</p> <p>>>Hoffarth: The second big effort we have is to make the actual streets, the infrastructure, safer and more enjoyable. And the third one is to educate cyclist to use the streets and the trails safely.</p> <p>>>Barron: I first hooked up with the Atlanta Bicycle Campaign because they were offering a safety course: how to ride in traffic safely; because you really need to learn that first.</p> <p>>>Hoffarth: So much of our work involves cyclists who care enough to actually get involved volunteering to try to make a difference. And one of the recent accomplishments is getting bike racks on the Marta buses. This allows people in many ways to bike part way, put their bike on the bus and then go further. It's a real good combination: bike and transit. We really promoted that. In our office we have two people and our work is done by about 200 people. We could never get all our work done without a huge pool of volunteers. The environmental aspect of biking in Atlanta is particularly important because we have a huge air quality problem and if we can use other forms of transportation besides automobiles, we could make a huge impact on that..</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Conservation is more than just appreciating wildlife, it's about conserving their habitat.</p> <p>>>And so when you come out to the property, they may be asking you "What can I add to this property to increase its attractiveness to wildlife?"</p> <p>>>Keyes: I got hooked on birding in college and it's been downhill from there, so any opportunity I can get to get outside and to look at the birds and to teach people about them I love to do. I think it's great to get people more aware of the wildlife which are coming into their own backyards and how the choices that they make may actually improve the wildlife habitat and make a difference.</p> <p>>>Schmalz: My role is the president of Atlanta Audubon Society. Our main goal is to preserve birds and their habitats, so we try every way we can to get out and preserve green spaces and educational efforts in addition to birding. The backyard wildlife habitat works very well with preserving the habitats. It involves butterflies and birds and also a lot of plants in nature that people enjoy.</p> <p>>>Let's walk down here and take a look at one of these stumps because stumps are really valuable. For instance, this one right here. This is a nice stump that a lot of people would consider, if it were in their backyard, they would consider this just an eyesore when in reality this has a lot of little insects in it. It's a little short for some birds to nest in like woodpeckers, but you might get brown-headed nuthatches in here. If it's a more open area in a yard, maybe even bluebirds, so if you've got some hole already drilled, those birds will move into</p>

	<p>it.</p> <p>>>Training volunteers for Audubon is very easy. If we have somebody who wants to go out and learn about how to teach birding, it's because they love birds. And so they're just sponges. They want to learn everything thing they can about it. They want to learn how to convey this information to other people too. If it's going out to evaluate a habitat, it's probably because they have one at their own homes. They already have a sanctuary. They're already into planting, into wildlife, into birds, into native plants, so it's very easy to want them and ask them to convey that information to other people.</p> <p>>>Keyes: It's a great opportunity to get outside to teach people about birds, which are my passion. And since I'm going to drive my wife crazy anyway with it, I might as well be productive and teach some folks.</p> <p>>>Garner: I've been volunteering with Georgia Wildlife for over 13 years. After 13 of volunteering they decided they needed somebody to take care of the grounds here at Georgia Wildlife so they put me on fulltime. It's a good feeling that I get inside to know what little things that I do here will help not only Georgia wildlife, but the people of Georgia.</p> <p>>>McCollum: Well the Georgia Wildlife Federation was founded in 1936 by a group of sportsmen. We have been the spokesman for sportsmen in Georgia for all those years. We have a wide variety of issues which people can be involved in and we can usually find a job for just about anybody who wants to volunteer.</p> <p>>>Beebe: The key program of the Georgia Wildlife Federation is public education, access to the natural environments and ecosystems on their property.</p> <p>>>James: Today we're maintaining the Georgia Wildlife Federation trail system and identifying species that were imported in here, invasive species, and clearing those back and some of the briars to make the trail walk a lot more easier for the general public.</p> <p>>>What kinds of plants are these? They look kind of unusual. >>Yeah, they're lizard tail. They're common in the wetland out here. >>It would be a great place for an interpretive sign when we can get the public out here and they can learn about the native plant species that are on the trail. >>Yeah, we'll go ahead and flag it so we'll know.</p> <p>>>Harris: We wanted to open up some other portions of the trail that were closer to the Alcovy Conservation Center. We only have a couple of permanent staff folks on our staff, so without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to complete most of the projects.</p> <p>>>Phillips: I've been a volunteer with the Georgia Wildlife Federation close to 10 years now. I've been in charge of the Adopt A Stream program approximately 3.</p> <p>>>James: I worked for a well company for 9 ½ years, so I got into water there. We drink it. We play in it. So we need to take care of it. I've got four kids: 6, 8, 10 and 12. I've got two that are critter counters. They like the biological end of it. And then I've got two that are more interested in the chemical end of it. They're all getting to do what they enjoy. You know, I don't force them to do something they don't want to, but they're learning how to take care of it.</p> <p>>>Phillips: Well volunteering helps you take control of your environment. You've got to take care of your land, your water, your air.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Conservation means raising money to provide habitat for wildlife...or a place to learn about wildlife.</p> <p>>>Harris: Trout Unlimited is the foremost cold water conservation group in the united states. We work with the Forest Service and the Department of Natural Resources in the state of Georgia.</p> <p>>>Cole: The Forest Service has helped Trout Unlimited reach their dream of an outdoor classroom here at North Habersham Middle School in Clarkesville, Georgia.</p>

	<p>>>Hunt: The beauty of the outdoor classroom is when we're waling to the river, it's a chance to talk to the kids, plus, those that are really active, they will get some of that 7th grade energy out.</p> <p>>>Harris: Trout Unlimited was integral in taking what was an abandoned shed, full of garbage and junk, and cleaning it up, putting a roof on it and creating a really special learning atmosphere.</p> <p>>>Hunt: We moved to this location 6 years ago, and I've been using it ever since.</p> <p>>>Harris: We're real fortunate to have Brenda Hunt with North Habersham Middle School, one of the teachers who has kind of taken this outdoor classroom over as a personal project of her own.</p> <p>>>Hunt (to children): Notice across the top of that; all the insect activity.</p> <p>>>Harris: She loves getting the children out of the classroom, into this outdoor learning environment. And she has been very instrumental in the county as a whole becoming more involved with the outdoor classroom.</p> <p>>>Hunt: The kids actually will collect leaf packs out of the river, then they will sort through and find macro invertebrates. And they classify them using sheets and then they do comparisons.</p> <p>>>Cadenas: Well going out there and trying to find for those little creatures was really fun.</p> <p>>>Hunt: The beauty of this is, at the same time we're studying insects, so they get to see the larval stages of the creatures that they hear about.</p> <p>>>Leewelborn: I like to look at the bugs because it's like fun and unique and you learn new stuff that you didn't know.</p> <p>>>Hunt: Most of the students, the first time they see these things under a microscope, it's "Ooh" and "Aah" and "Oh, come look. Come look!"</p> <p>>>Cadenas: I get to see them up close and just see stuff that we can't see when they're in our hands or something like that.</p> <p>>>Hunt: But they love this hands-on approach where they get to actually get out and do inquiry-based science, where they get to go and see what's happening there. It's like a <u>living</u> text book.</p>
	<p>>>Conservation Man: Have you ever wanted to feel like a superhero? You can help conserve Georgia's resources in many ways. For more information on these and other opportunities, check out the Georgia Outdoors website!</p>