

NETWORK NEWS 11/10/08

Issue Number 117

Super CUVA passes overwhelmingly: Constitutional amendment #1 was approved by 68% of Georgia's voters on November 4. The amendment puts into effect the Georgia Forest Land Protection Act of 2008, which provides significant property tax relief for owners of 200 or more acres of forest land who enter into 15-year covenants to protect their land from development. The value of the incentive will be determined by the GA Department of Revenue. Most, if not all, of the lost revenue to local governments would be reimbursed by the state. This new incentive, often called "super CUVA," expands the existing Current Use Valuation Act incentives for the conservation of smaller tracts of forest land, farm land and environmentally-sensitive land (up to 2,000 acres protected with a 10-year covenant.) For more information, go to www.ForOurForests.com

Tax Allocation District amendment also passes: Amendment #2 was also approved by voters. TAD funds can be used for a wide variety of purposes including the creation of parks and open space, rehabilitating historic sites and buildings and providing affordable housing. For more information on the amendment, go to www.georgiatad.org

Georgia Land Conservation Council to meet this Thursday in Atlanta: The Council will meet on November 13, starting at 9:30 AM at the usual location (Bid Room, 270 Washington Street, Atlanta). Agenda items include a report on the 2009-2010 Strategic Plan, a review of grant and loan applications (one grant application from DNR and 2 loan applications, both from non-profits), a report on pending conservation easement donations to the state and a report on outreach and marketing efforts. Dates for Council meetings in 2009 and emerging issues will also be discussed.

Conservation easement permanence workshop to be offered in Jacksonville on December 3: Laurel Florio, an attorney and member of the Land Trust Alliance southeast regional faculty, will present a day-long workshop on two Alliance curriculum courses, "Conservation Easement Drafting and Documentation" and "Conservation Easement Stewardship." The workshop will be part of the Florida Public Lands and Management Conference (details at www.ces.fau.edu/plam2008). There is no formal registration form for this Workshop, but a head count is needed. Please e-mail Busy Kislig Shires of Conservation Trust of Florida at busy@conserveflorida.org or call 352-466-1178. There will be a \$20 fee for workshop materials to be paid on-site. A business meeting of the Alliance of Florida Land Trusts will immediately follow the conclusion of the workshop at 4 pm.

Dates:

Today: November 10: Comments due on proposed rules implementing the Land Conservation Tax Credit Program (see *Network News* 10/13/08); send comments to Kristina.Sorensen@dnr.state.ga.us

November 13: Georgia Land Conservation Council meeting, starting at 9:30 AM at the usual location (Bid Room, 270 Washington Street, Atlanta). See article above for details.

December 3: The Board of Natural Resources will consider and is expected to approve the proposed rules implementing the Land Conservation Tax Credit Program. The meeting starts at 9:00 AM in the DNR Board Room, Suite 1252 East Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, Atlanta.

December 3: Conservation easement permanence workshop and meeting of the Alliance of Florida Land Trusts, Jacksonville, Florida. See article above for details.

March 25-26: Southeast Land Conservation Conference, Auburn, Alabama. Details on this “Regional Rally” will be provided later.

October 11 – 14: Rally 2009 in Portland, Oregon.

Changes

Katie Eckman, Executive Director of the Turner Foundation, will be leaving the Foundation in early December to join her husband in Winston Salem, NC. Katie has worked for the Foundation for more than eight years, having “played a small part by helping fuel your work.” She will continue to work with the Foundation as a consultant on specific projects. After December 5th, she can be reached at katiedistler@yahoo.com She will be missed!

Christine McCauley, former Executive Director of the Chattahoochee Hill Country Conservancy and former Executive Director of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy, has been named Executive Director of the Buckhead Heritage Society in Atlanta. There, she will oversee Buckhead Heritage’s work to identify, preserve, restore and promote Buckhead’s historic resources. Chris can be reached at mccauleyc@mindspring.com For more on the organization, go to www.buckheadheritage.com

Job Opening

Central Savannah River Land Trust Community Relations Coordinator: The CSRLT is seeking a qualified professional to oversee its membership and outreach operations. Job duties include planning educational seminars and fundraising events, communicating the mission of the Land Trust with financial supporters, developing new techniques for engaging the community in the conservation process through membership and volunteerism. This will begin as a part-time position. However, opportunities for growth and expansion of job duties to include all aspects of the conservation process will be given based on performance.

Applicants with a four-year degree and a passion for conservation are encouraged to apply. The successful candidate will be articulate, an independent and motivated worker, proficient in web and word processing software, have excellent writing and communication skills, and a positive attitude. A background in environmental/conservation issues and/or experience working with non-profits is preferred.

Salary and benefits commensurate with experience. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to info@csrlt.org or PO Box 148 Augusta, GA 30903.

Network News is a periodic communication produced by the Georgia Land Trust Service Center for land trust leaders in Georgia. To subscribe or to contribute news items, please contact Hans Neuhauser at the Georgia Land Trust Service Center: 706-546-7507 or hansneuhauser@bellsouth.net