



THANKS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Informing the public and taking timely action on major coastal policy issues is a team effort. Without the generous help of an impressive array of individuals and their diverse affiliations, the Center could not effectively pursue its mission. By giving recognition to those who have assisted us, we not only express fitting appreciation to individuals for their teamwork, but also provide a sampling of the variety of relationships and tasks involved in doing our work. We hope that you will be inspired by their example. The Center looks forward to further successful activities with our many colleagues, members, and supporters. If you would like to assist the Center, give us a call at (912) 638-3612.

Appreciation to Center member **Sara Barczak**, who as the Safe Energy Director of **Georgians for Clean Energy**, has so generously assisted us in participating in statewide energy issues. In March, Sara encouraged us to attend the Energy Summit in Atlanta, which was co-hosted by her organization. Sara spoke out in favor of the Center's continuing involvement in energy policy planning activities that were developed at the Summit. **Rita Kilpatrick**, the director of **Georgians for Clean Energy**, was kind enough to provide overnight lodging and 'taxi service' for us in Atlanta.

Sincere thanks to **Helen Alexander**, who has been providing administrative and financial assistance to the Center for the past year. Helen has continued to help enormously in smoothing out administrative snags, and working with Center board member and secretary-treasurer, **Alan Bailey**, recently succeeded in getting approval from the IRS for renewing the organization's 501(c) 3 designation. This will enable the Center to continue offering tax-deductions for contributors supporting the Center.

Board member **Venetia Butler**, an environmental educator at the **Oatland Center** in Chatham County, deserves our thanks for arranging several presentations for the Center's executive director at conferences in recent months. For providing a similar outreach opportunity, we also owe recognition to Center intern, **Kimberly Stewart**, who scheduled a talk for the executive director at a Georgia Southern University seminar. And we must also thank **Clean Coast's Clete Bergen** for inviting David Kyler to speak at a March conference held on Ossabaw Island.

We express our profound sorrow upon the death of **Tom Cross** of St. Simons Island, who was very helpful to the Center by providing bookkeeping assistance and related computer services whenever needed. Tom, who shared a nearby office, always had a kind word and was an unusually patient man. We were shocked and saddened by his untimely passing in March.

We are again grateful to Center advisor and supporter, **John Train** of Macon, who represented the organization at several conferences, accompanying the executive director to the Georgia River Network conference in Milledgeville, the Clean Coast conference on Ossabaw Island, and the Georgia Energy Summit in Atlanta.

Kudos to **Harold Reheis, Director Georgia's Environmental Protection Division** who decided to deny a permit for water withdrawal from the Lower Floridan aquifer in Richmond Hill (Bryan County) after considering extensive opposing comments from hydrologists, geologists, and numerous others, including the Center. Mr. Reheis acted responsibly in holding two public meetings on this issue, which produced decisively valuable information. We also owe gratitude to **Ben Brewton Coastal Environmental Organization** and **Patty McIntosh The Georgia Conservancy** who were so instrumental in generating public attention about this important issue. The Center is very thankful for the assistance of our advisor and veteran geologist **Rick Krause**, who kindly provided insightful help in our comments on this issue, which were presented at the Board of Natural Resources in Atlanta as well as at the public meetings in Richmond Hill. The incisive and influential public remarks on this issue by hydrogeologist **Dr. Jim Reichard** (also a Center advisor) deserve our praise as well.

Colleen Kiernan Sierra Club and **Allie Kelly Georgia Environmental Enforcement Project** did an outstanding job in generating public involvement on public health issues related to dirty power plants. Largely through their initiative, assisted by testimony of the Center and other groups, EPD agreed to hold public meetings in Savannah, Macon, and Cartersville, home to the three plants that are violating the Clean Air Act. In Savannah, Colleen and Allie organized a truly compelling display of public protest against pollution caused by Plant Kraft. We are indebted to these two dedicated environmental advocates for providing the opportunity for the Center to participate. The three plants in question are owned by the Southern Company.

Our thanks to **Center board member Alan Bailey** for his generous donation of six gift memberships in the Center to individuals concerned about coastal issues.

We are especially grateful to the **Glynn County Board of Commissioners** for their resolute protection of coastal water resources in a recent decision denying a rezoning that would have allowed strip-mining on a tract near Interstate 95. They expressed justifiable concern about the effects the operation could have on water quality and remaining aquifer capacity by soundly defeating the proposal in a vote of 6 to 1. It is clear that water conservation has finally become a key issue for decision makers in our area.



Our friends and colleagues with the **Southern Environmental Law Center** have earned our admiration for their intelligence and hard work on behalf of coastal Georgians and the organizations that represent them. These outstanding individuals include (alphabetically) **Derb Carter, Chris DeScherer, Blan Holman, Laura Jones, Amanda Lail, and Wes Woolf**. Through their tireless efforts, the Center and our fellow advocacy groups represented by SELC have held forth on compelling legal arguments that are likely to affect future interpretation of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.

Congratulations to veteran staffer **Susan Shipman** at the **Coastal Resources Division of the Georgia DNR** for being promoted to director of that division. Center board members and staff have the highest regard for Susan's past work and wish her every success. We look forward to collaborating with Ms. Shipman and her staff in resolving various issues of common concern.

Nancy Thomason of Saint Simons Island, current president of **Residents United for Planning and Action (RUPA)**, deserves tribute for her persistence and foresight in pressing for protection of marsh hammocks. Largely through Nancy's efforts, a number of environmental groups, including the Center, have become involved in legal actions and policy analysis related to these ecologically significant areas.



We also wish to thank **DNR Commissioner Lonice Barrett** for holding public hearings on hammock development and protection here on the coast. These hearings and the work of the Marsh Hammocks Council have helped expand discussion of this critical issue.