



UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE
RIVERKEEPER[®]

Keeping Watch Over Our Waters

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UCR celebrates new office in LaGrange with ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, Sept. 6

ATLANTA — [Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper](http://www.ucriverkeeper.org), a nonprofit environmental organization with more than 5,000 members, will **celebrate the opening of its new office in LaGrange** with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6, at the office location at [35 South LaFayette Square in downtown LaGrange](#). The public is invited to attend.

The ceremony, sponsored by the [LaGrange-Troup County Chamber of Commerce](#), will feature a welcome from the UCR Regional Outreach Manager **Jill Sistino**, UCR Executive Director **Sally Bethea** and UCR board member and LaGrange resident **Charles Smith**.

In keeping with UCR's strategic plan, the LaGrange office will serve the **West Point Lake region that includes Troup, Heard and Harris Counties** and, eventually, a portion of the river basin in Alabama. The office will help serve as a host site for several of UCR's educational and monitoring programs, among others. We'll also provide local water updates as well as lake and river information for those in the downtown area.

The office has enjoyed tremendous support from the [Callaway Foundation](#) and [Interface, Inc.](#)

"This office has been a long time coming. We've been working in the West Point Lake region for years, and now we're excited to have staff on the ground," Bethea said. "Our investment in a local office will allow us to expand our outreach and monitoring programs and we are thrilled to have Jill on board."

Sistino brings years of marketing and communications experience to the position. She and her husband, Ray, moved to LaGrange with their two young daughters four years ago. Since then they have spent precious time on West Point Lake and have enjoyed getting to know the area, along with the people and businesses in their new community.

“It has been my pleasure to get out and meet other groups who are like-minded in their efforts to provide clean and plentiful water resources,” she said. “So much talk in this area is about water, so it has been a wonderful opportunity to become engaged in these discussions with a supportive voice.”

Charles Smith, with [Hutchinson Traylor Insurance](#), joined [UCR’s board of directors](#) in 2010 and has helped the organization with strategic planning for the office. “The issues of sustainability and stewardship of our natural resources are critical to our regional well-being, as well as the legacy that we create for our children and grandchildren. I am honored to serve this organization,” Smith said.

To become a UCR member and get involved in our activities – from events to volunteering – contact Jill Sistino at (706) 882-3701 (office) or (404) 226-8049 (cell) or via email at jsistino@ucriverkeeper.org. You can also learn more about UCR through our website and various social-media tools:

UCR website: www.Chattahoochee.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Chattahoochee-Riverkeeper/118239508922>

Twitter: [@ucriverkeeper.org](https://twitter.com/ucriverkeeper)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/UCRiverkeeperVideos>

UCR’s mission is to protect and preserve the Chattahoochee River, its lakes and tributaries for the people, fish and wildlife that depend upon it. The Chattahoochee is the most heavily used water resource in Georgia. For more information, visit www.chattahoochee.org.

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