



# ForestWatch Faces

Get to know the folks who make it happen

This web feature spotlights some of the special folks behind the scenes of Georgia ForestWatch. If you'd like to nominate someone for ForestWatch Faces, please contact our office by clicking the e-mail link below.

## Meet Charles Seabrook, Environmentalist, Author, Advisor

For more than 33 years the name Charles Seabrook has been synonymous with environmental issues in Georgia. With a B.S in Biology and a B.A. in Journalism from the University of South Carolina, Charlie was the perfect choice to become the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's first science writer in 1986, covering natural and human-caused disasters, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill and Atlanta's sewage spills into the Chattahoochee River. Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Executive Director Sally Bethea says "Charles Seabrook's thorough and tenacious reporting on Atlanta's chronic sewage problems was essential to gain public support for the multi-billion dollar upgrade to the city's sewer system. He deserves immense credit for the fact that the Chattahoochee and its tributaries are dramatically cleaner today than they were a decade ago." The articles contributed to the law-suit that ultimately forced the city to undertake a \$3 billion construction project to separate the storm water and sewage systems, replace aging infrastructure, and expand the system to meet city growth.

His work has lead Seabrook out of his beloved South and around the world. He traveled to the Amazon rainforest in 1989 to examine how deforestation was contributing to climate change. He returned there in 2002 to write a series of stories on the illegal smuggling of wild creatures. In 2004 he spent four days in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to learn how proposed drilling in the oil fields there would affect the fragile environment and the native peoples who live there.

A native of South Carolina, Charlie grew up on Johns Island, adjacent to Seabrook Island, named after the Seabrook family. There he learned to love the birds, the sea creatures, and all other things natural that he writes so passionately about.

He has authored three books. His first, "Red Clay, Pink Cadillacs and White Gold: the Kaolin Chalk Wars", was published by Longstreet Press (1995.) In 2002, Charlie released his second book, "Cumberland Island: Strong Women, Wild Horses", John. F. Blair, publisher. The book describes the fascinating story of the people, animals, and plants of Cumberland Island, Georgia. It also created the conditions for the reunion of Seabrook with the coastal South. His latest book: "By a World of Marsh" should be out by the end of 2011. Four years in the making, the book pulls together all the latest research on the ecosystem that he calls "the kidneys of the earth". Though it is written for the layperson, the book recently passed review by three aquatic experts.

Charlie has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Atlanta Business Chronicle, and the State of Georgia recognized him with the R.L. "Rock" Howard Award, its highest conservation prize.

Charlie stepped down from the Georgia ForestWatch Board in part to make more time to write his latest book, but he still serves as an advisor to the Board.

Thanks to Charlie, Georgia's natural things have a vocal and recognized advocate.

Want to give us feedback or suggestions? Call our office at 706-635-8733, or send an e-mail to [info\\_at\\_gafw.org](mailto:info_at_gafw.org).