

The Greening of Georgia

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Georgia's environment is the best it has been in one-hundred years. Its air is clearer, its streams cleaner, its land safer, its forests more splendid, and its wildlife more plentiful than when the 20th century was young. Its people ought to celebrate!

Yale University Poll – 2007 (national)

“...quality of the environment is getting better, staying about the same, or getting worse?”

- | | |
|-----------------|-----|
| ■ Worse or same | 86% |
| ■ Better | 11% |

Soil Erosion in Heard County, Georgia, 1939 (Library of Congress)



Lake Sedimentation A Major Problem?

Lakes and ponds all over Georgia constructed early in the 20th century quickly filled with sediment washing off cultivated fields.

- Morgan Falls Dam built on the Chattahoochee River above Atlanta in 1905 was completely filled with sediment in about 30 years, a sedimentation rate of 3-4 percent per year.
- West Point Lake was built on the Chattahoochee at the Alabama line in 1974. From then until 1997 it sedimented at 0.02 percent per year, meaning it will fill completely in several thousand years.

EROSION RATES IN GEORGIA, 1992

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Erosion rate</u>
Cropland	(tons/acre/ year)
Cultivated	5.5
Noncultivated	0.6
Pastureland	0.4
Urban*	0.0
Forest land	0.0
Other	0.5
Total	0.8

***Includes small and large built-up areas.**

U.S. D. A. 1992 *Nat. Resources Inventory*

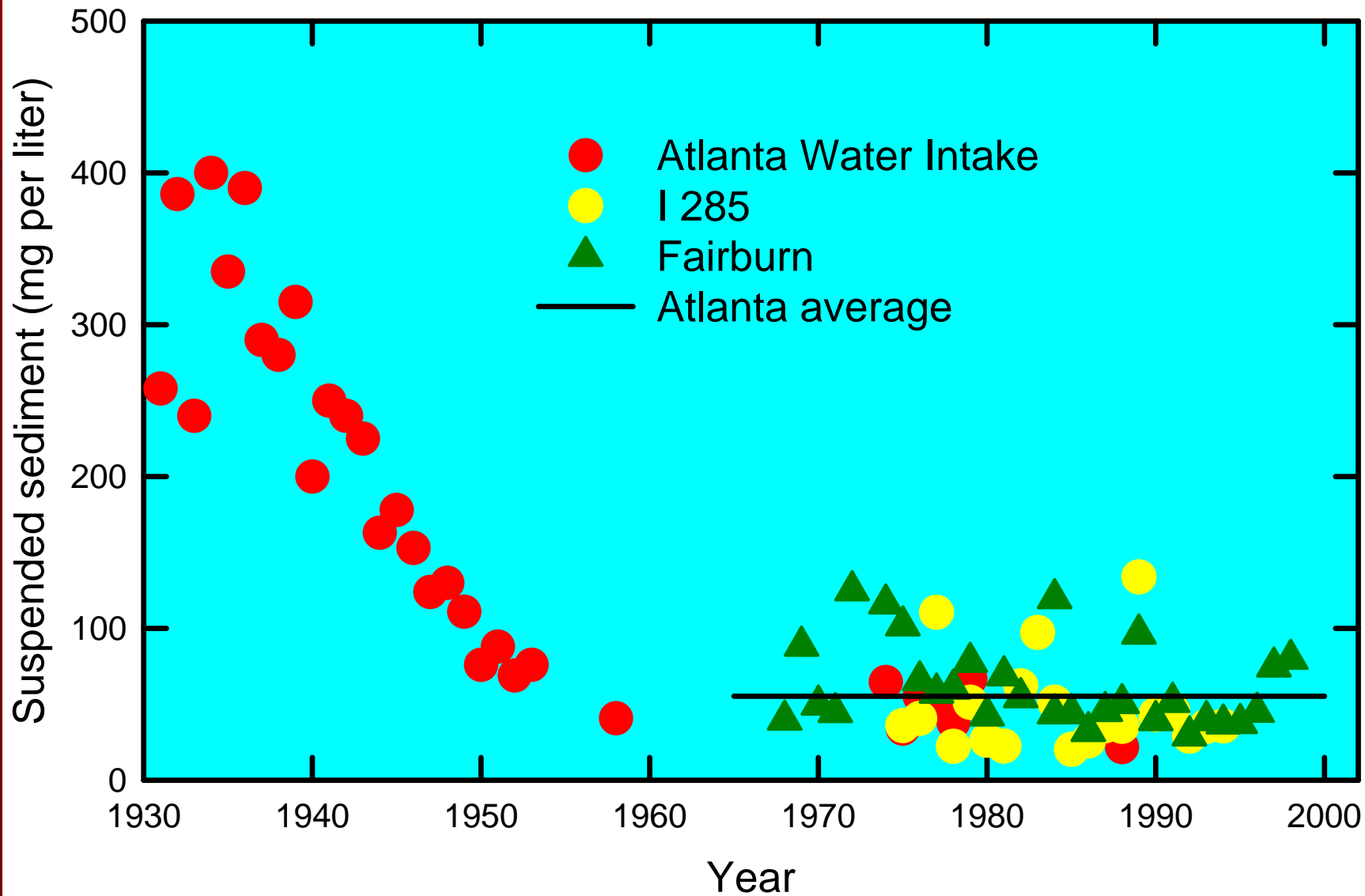
DON'T BE
A

LITTERBUG

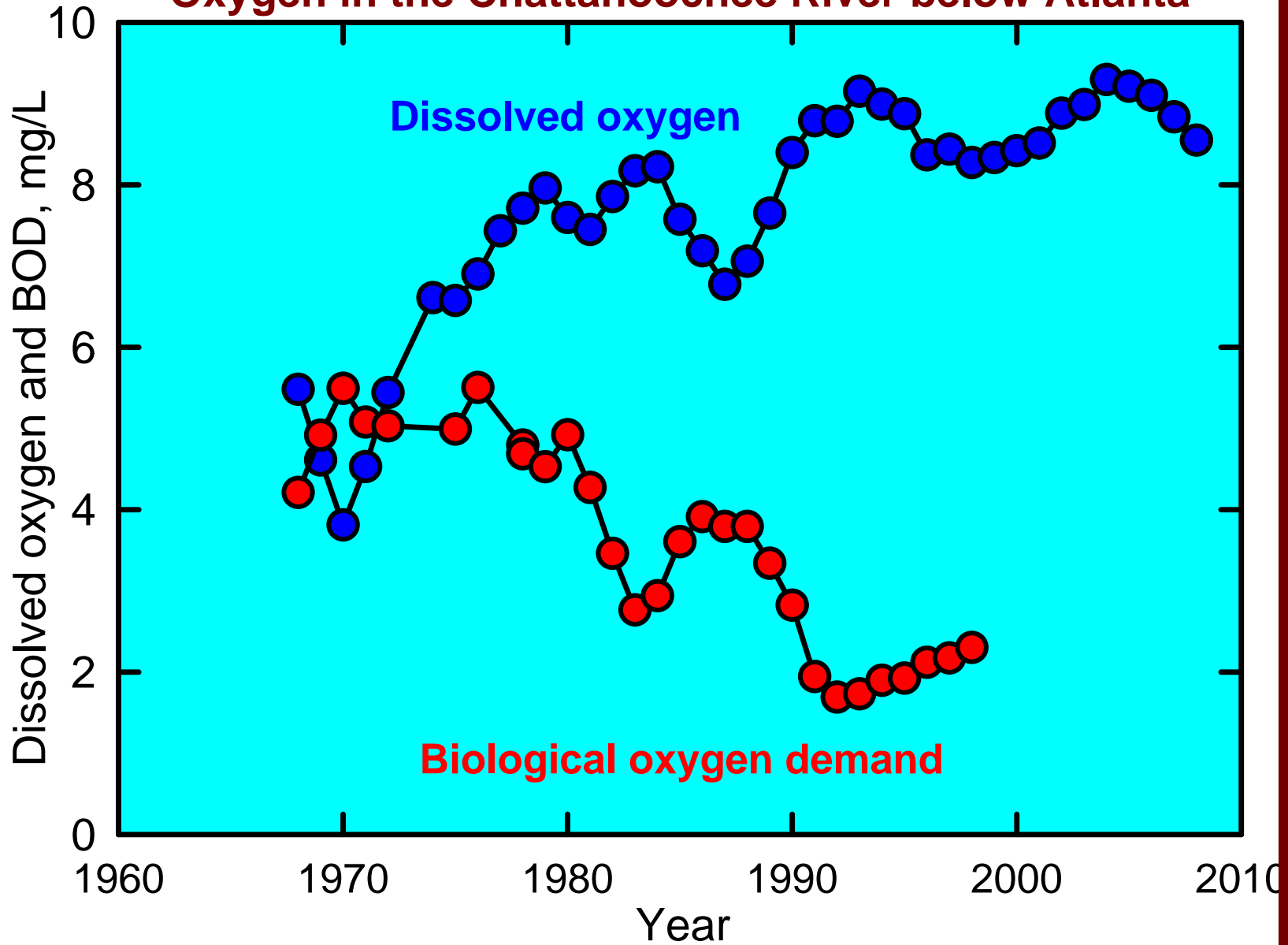


ALLENDALE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ALLENDALE COUNTY ALIVE

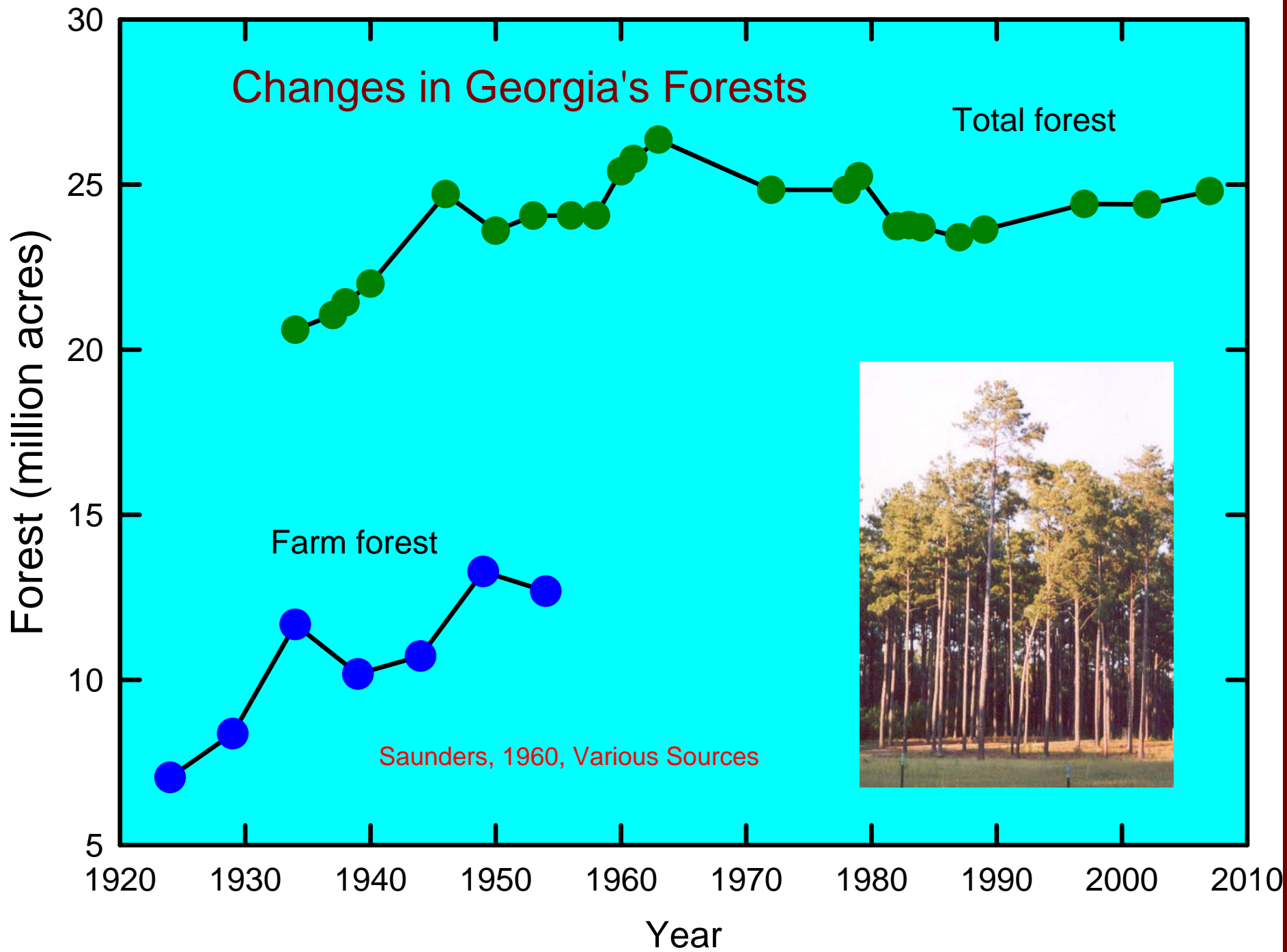
Sediment in the Chattahoochee River Near Atlanta



Oxygen in the Chattahoochee River below Atlanta



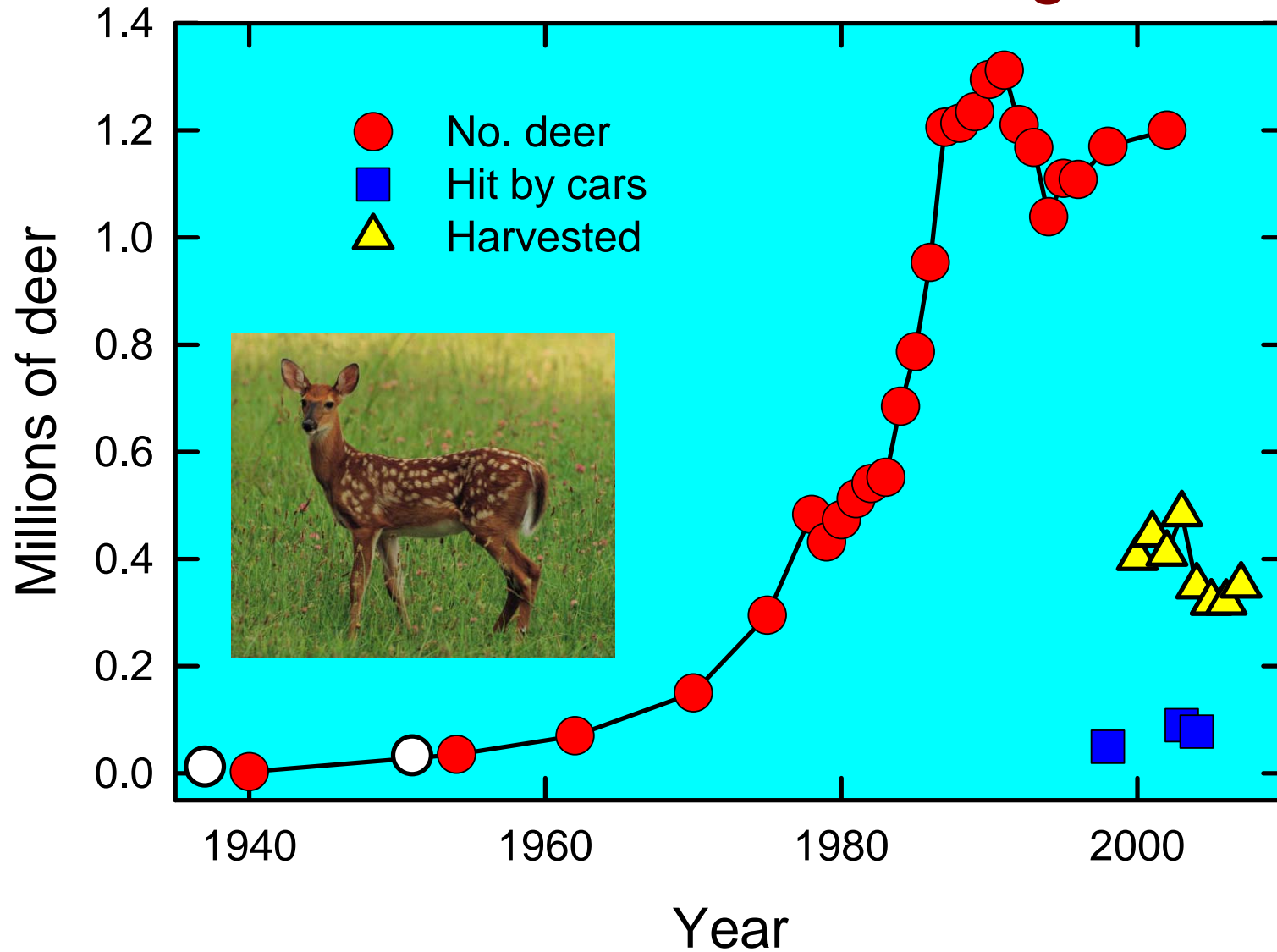
Changes in Georgia's Forests



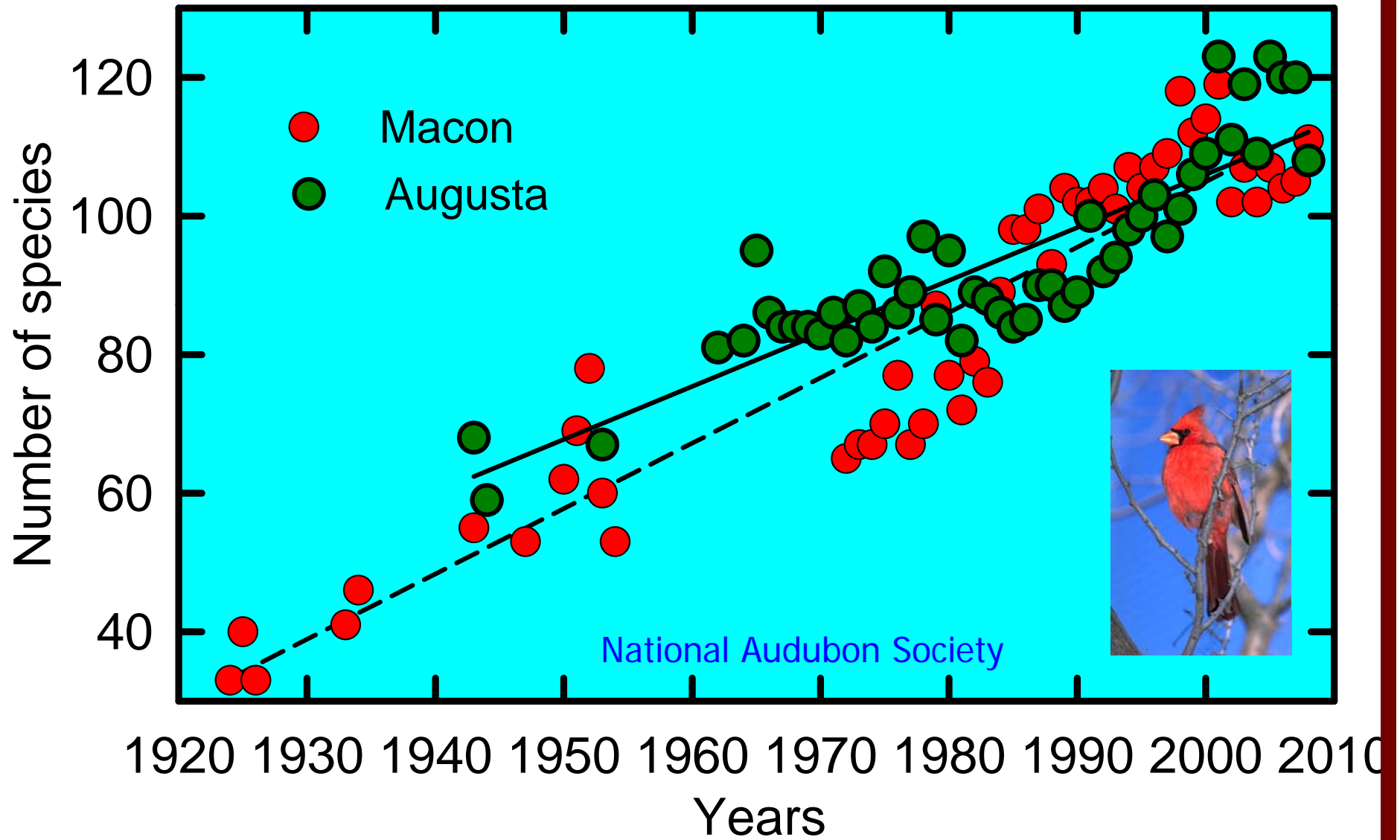
Georgia Wetlands during the 20th Century

<u>Acres of wetlands</u>	<u>Source</u>
7,919,469	Barrows et al., 1917.
5,919,500(mid-1950s)	Shaw and Fredine, 1956
4,143,000	State Soil & Water Cons. Comm., 1981
5,444,597(mid-1950s)	Kundell and Woolf, 1986
5,298,000(mid-1970s)	Kundell and Woolf, 1986
3,513,789	Kundell and Woolf, 1986
4,831,300	Kundell and Woolf, 1986
7,496,100	NRCS Nat. Resources Inv. 1992
7,792,000(mid-1970s)	Hefner et al., 1994
7,714,000(mid-1980s)	Hefner et al., 1994
7,700,000+	USGS, 1996
4,929,300	Ga. Dept. Nat. Resources, 1997
6,956,000	USDA, 1997

Deer Numbers in Georgia



Bird Species in Christmas Bird Counts



Augusta, Georgia – 1909

Library of Congress



SOOT TONNAGE HERE REPORTED ON DECLINE

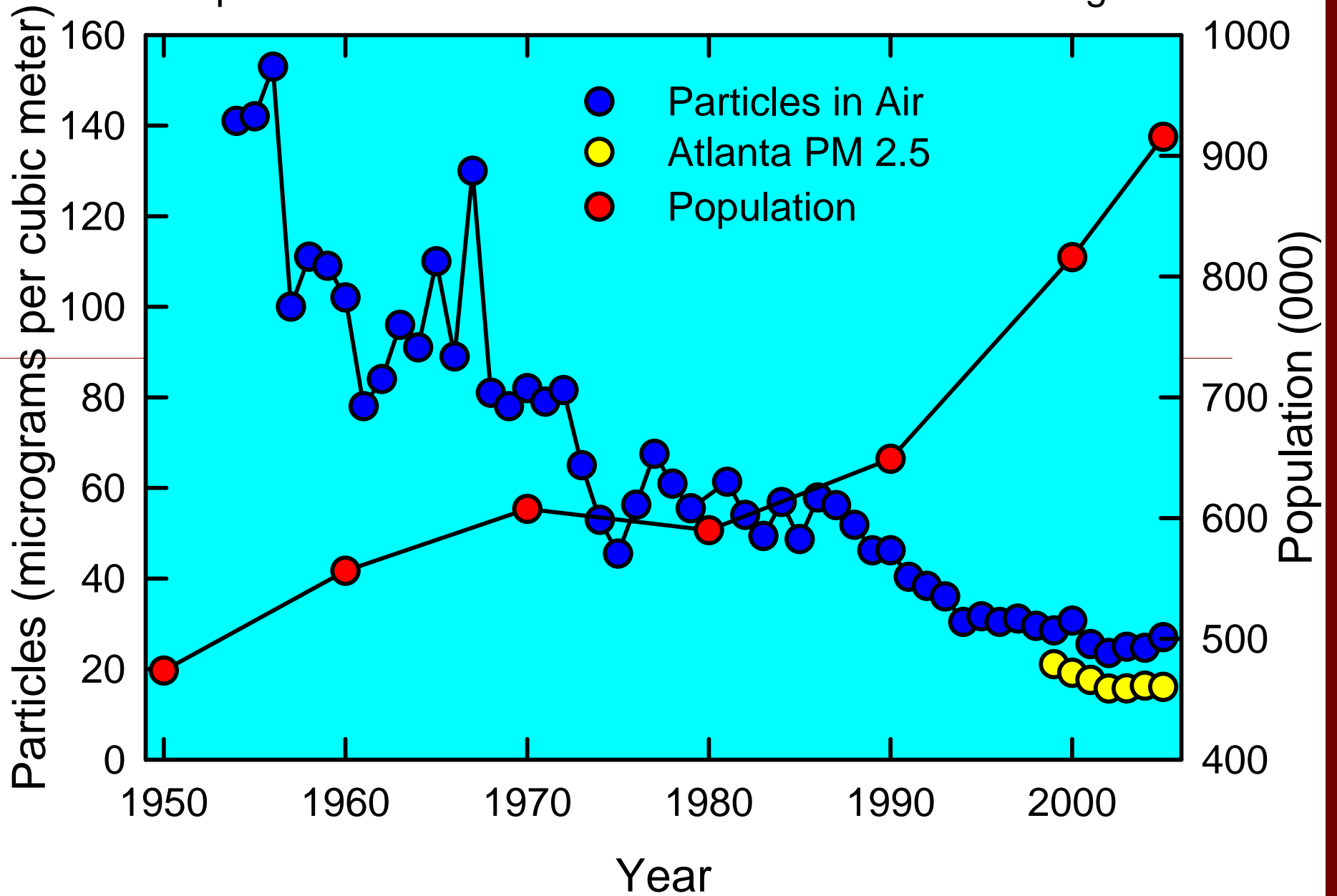
Atlanta Constitution, March 28, 1938.

Quote by A. W. Jones, Atlanta's Smoke Inspector

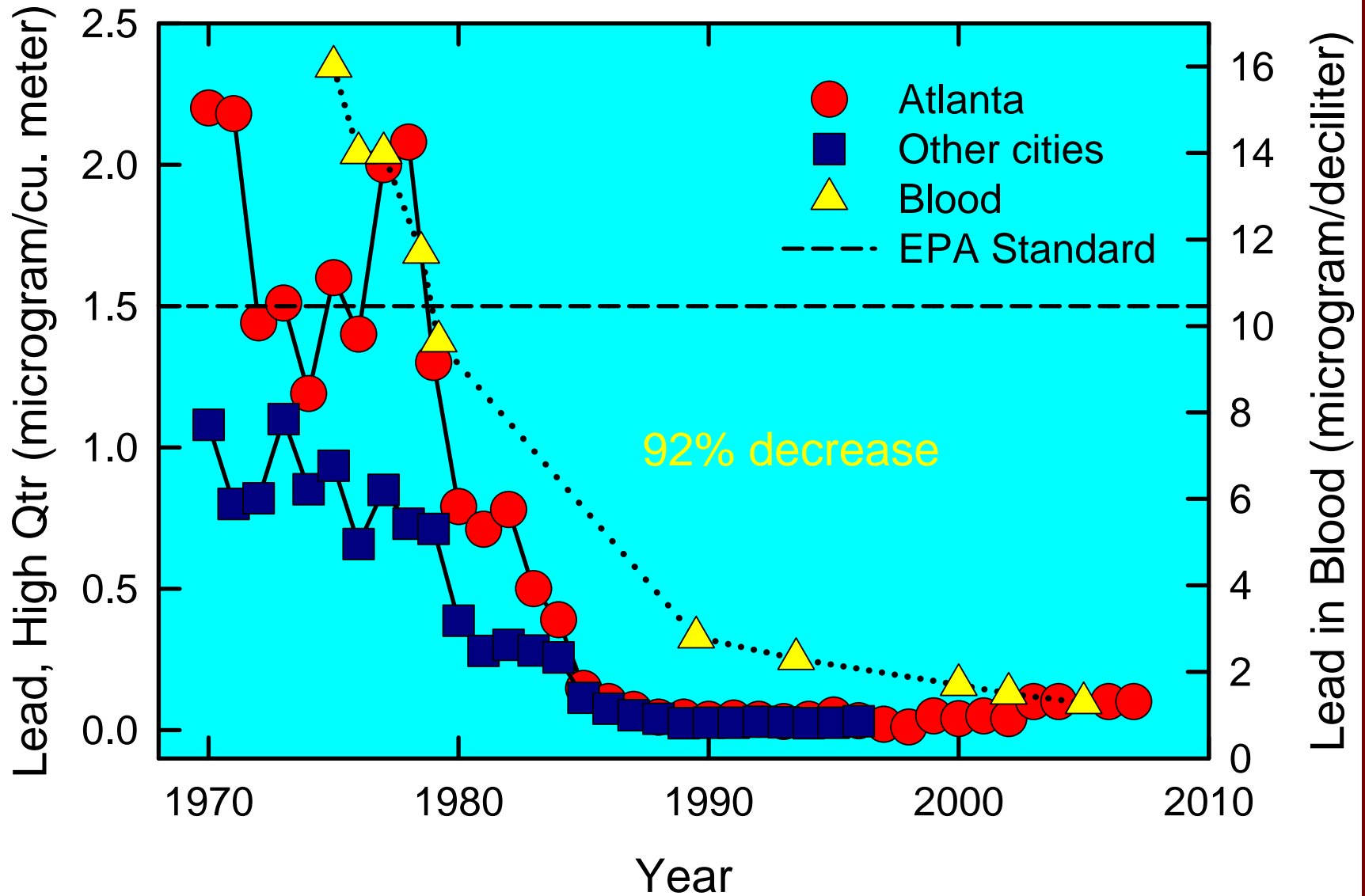
“We have learned during the past years that soot tonnage per square mile is declining rapidly here, since in 1927 there were 80 tons of soot per square mile and during 1936 and 1937 there were only 11 tons per square mile,” he said yesterday. “We expect this year's analysis to show a much better condition.”

80 tons/sq. mi. = 275 lb. on a football field (RHB)

Population and Particle Pollution in Fulton Co. Georgia



Lead in Georgia's Air and American's Blood



Average Maximum Ozone Levels in Dekalb County and Conyers

