

Sept
2006

Piedmont Plateau Group Of the Sierra Club

We welcome your articles, photos, and outings reports. The deadline for contributions is the second Tuesday of each month. Submit contributions to Dixon Cook at dcook4@triad.rr.com.

We reserve the right to reject or edit any copy that is unsuitable for publication or received after the deadline.

To change your address officially, email your address change or correction to: address-changes@sierraclub.org.

<http://nc.sierraclub.org/piedmont>

Our group **Executive Committee** (Excom) has open positions. If you have an interest in helping to set our local group's priorities, having a voice and a vote on important issues facing our community please contact: **Tom Taylor** at 286-9689 or **Terry Woods** at 580-0510.

September Program: White Street Landfill

For our **September 12th** meeting, please join us when Scott Bost, landfill operations supervisor for the municipal **White Street Landfill**, in Greensboro will talk about what landfills are doing to produce energy and to protect wildlife habitat using high tech measuring tools.

Sierra Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library. Come share refreshments and social time at 7:00.

From: www.greensboro-nc.gov



Update on the Uwharrie Plan

On July 31, at its public meeting in Troy, NC, the U.S. Forest Service released a 'pre-draft' version of its proposed management plan for the Uwharrie National Forest. This pre-draft plan is the result of a process which began last August, and was influenced to an extent by the participation of Sierra Club members, other conservationists, and a broad array of interest groups, stakeholders, and local citizens who took part in periodic public meetings since that time.

This planning process is also one of the first in the country to proceed under the new Bush Administration re-write of the implementing regulations for the National Forest Management Act, which mandates that National Forests revisit their management plans every fifteen years. While the old regulations required that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared and the process proceed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the new regs require no EIS and no NEPA, so the agency has far more latitude in determining the shape and scope of the process. This includes how fully the public will be involved, and at what points. It should be noted that the Uwharrie and the National Forest planning staff in North Carolina have done a good job of trying to involve the public, with eight public meetings and two field trips over the last year, and should be commended for soliciting that degree of public participation.

Three themes came to dominate the collaborative planning process and provide the framework for the new plan.

1. Restoring the forest to a more natural condition, which would include removing loblolly pine plantations in favor of reestablishing oak-hickory or longleaf pine forests. The forest is using ecosystem modeling to determine the scope and pace of such restoration.
2. Better management of historic resources, of which the Uwharrie is endowed with a significant number, including artifacts, historic, and prehistoric sites.
3. Providing an outstanding yet environmentally system of trails and facilities for many types of

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| September Program | 1 |
| Update on Uwharrie Plan | 1 |
| October Program | 2 |
| Outings | 3 |
| Group Directory | 4 |

recreationists, while minimizing impacts to other forest resources and other forest users.

These are all good goals, but the devil, as always, will be in the details. For example, how many new ORV trails (of which there are already 16 miles) will be developed? How will the existing 40 miles of equestrian trails be maintained to ensure that runoff does not enter streams?

There are significant problems with the plan, however. As might be expected under this Administration, with the exception of the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness area, virtually the entire forest is 'suitable for timber production, which means the capacity is there for far more logging. In addition, monitoring requirements are sketchy and at a minimum. Monitoring the only way in which we will be able to determine if the Uwharrie is achieving its lofty vision for the new Uwharrie, and the Forest Service has diligently worked to eliminate or weaken any kind of accountability in the new regs.

If you want to be engaged in the final stages of crafting this Plan for the next fifteen years, consider getting involved with friends and allies in advocating for a strong and protective final Plan. All of the planning documents, meeting minutes and powerpoints, and the pre-draft Plan, itself, are available online at http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/uwharrie_plan/planning_documents.htm

Familiarize yourself with them and be prepared to comment and participate when the actual draft Plan is released this fall. There will be another public meeting at that time, and an official ninety-day comment period. If you need other information or want to be added to a list to receive updates as they occur, contact the NF Planner, Ruth Berner, at 828-257-4862 or rberner@fs.fed.us. Comments on the plan can be sent at any time to comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us, with 'Uwharrie Plan' in the subject line.

And if I can be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me - David Muhly, Regional Representative Sierra Club - Appalachian Region, david.muhly@sierraclub.org

Do you have an important issue you would like to contact your Representatives about? You can just call them!


| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Senator Elizabeth Dole | (202) 224-6342 |
| Senator Richard Burr | (202) 224-3154 |
| Representative Virginia Foxx | (202) 225-2071 |
| Representative Howard Coble | (336) 333-5005 |
| Representative Mel Watt | (336) 275-9950 |
| Representative Brad Miller | (336) 574-2909 |
| Governor Mike Easley | (919) 733-4240 |

October Program—On October 10, Melissa Begley, with Urban Forestry for the City of Greensboro, will talk to us about the Urban Forestry mission, which is, in partnership with various organizations, to create tree programs to help preserve, restore and replace Greensboro's tree canopy.




Katie Jo Icenhower
RE/MAX 1st Choice
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated
(336) 253-6506

The First EcoBroker™ in
North Carolina



Keeping more green in your pocket and the planet.

www.TriadEcoRealEstate.com



Our local Sierra Club was over \$1,000 in the red last year. To make a contribution to our local Club, contact Tom Taylor at (tnt2703@excite.com) or 286-9689.

George G. Lockhart

Attorney at Law

Board Certified Specialist in Estate Planning and Probate Law

- Wills and Living Trusts
- Charitable Trusts
- Estate Administration

643-6066 ‹ › Greensboro, NC

Outings Information

Please call the trip leader at a reasonable time of day, at least 48 hours prior to the outing, for details regarding level of difficulty and required equipment.

Outings are open to non-members. Invite a friend!

Bring - Water, food, whistle and raingear.

Weather - Trips go unless hazardous conditions exist. Call the leader when in doubt.

Radios and firearms are prohibited.

Pets are permitted only when it is stated that pets are permitted.

Difficulty Level- Hikers should make sure their ability and equipment match the difficulty.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Easy: 0-5 miles and elevation change of up to 1000 feet.

Moderate: 5-10 miles and elevation change 1000 to 2500 feet.

Strenuous: 10 miles or elevation change of more than 2500 feet.

Stone Mountain. The hike will include views of the parkway foliage, three waterfalls and perhaps turkey vultures and deer. This is one of my favorite parks. I always feel such a sense of accomplishment when I make the second pass through the meadow and look up to review the 8 mile path just covered. Contact: Cheryl Garrity at 427-0413 or cgarriyhike@earthlink.net

Sep. 15 - 17 Pearis Mountain Backpack

(Moderately strenuous). Not scouted. South of Pearisburg, Va., on the AT. Great views. Hardwood forest. Base camp in the area of Doc's Knob Shelter (2.2 miles @ 3500 ft). Saturday dayhike (11.5 out and back) over Pearis Mt to Angels Rest/View Rock (4000 ft) overlooking the New River. **Group size limited.** \$10 refundable deposit requested. Contact Jerry Weston at 856-1431 before 9:00 pm or Jweston@gbwlaw.com.

Sep. 16 Hanging Rock SP Waterfalls Hike

(Easy) I love waterfalls. I am going to visit all five falls at Hanging Rock State Park. The pace will be slow with the opportunity to make pictures and get your toes wet if you wish. If it has been more than three years since you visited the park, you will find changes in three of the four trails we will travel. Total hiking distance will be 3-4 miles plus some driving to access the trailheads. If waterfalls speak to your inner spirit, join me on this easy hike. Contact Cheryl Garrity at 427-0413 or cgarriyhike@earthlink.net

Sep. 30 Stone Mountain Hike

(moderate-strenuous) Join us as we hike over the summit of the 600 ft. granite dome (seen from the Blue Ridge Parkway), which offers beautiful views of this popular state park. We'll continue down to the waterfall for lunch, overall hike is approximately 4.5 miles total. Contact: hallen2@guilford.edu or call 336-644-8709.

Oct. 14 Stone Mountain Hike

(Moderate) This will be a wonderful opportunity to observe the fall colors. We will hike several trails as we traverse Wolf Rock and





Bear in mind the consequences.

The Yellowstone grizzly bear is an irreplaceable part of America's natural heritage, a symbol of the independence that defines the American character and an icon of all that is wild and free. The Bush administration set forth a proposal that would remove federal protection for the Yellowstone grizzly bear. Help Sierra Club protect our forest friends; they prefer the woods than being on display.

Get grizzly and JOIN Sierra Club.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: Visa Mastercard AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

| Membership Categories | Individual | Joint |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Special Offer | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | |
| Standard | <input type="checkbox"/> \$39 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$47 |
| Supporting | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
| Contributing | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$175 |
| Life | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1250 |
| Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |
| Student/Limited Income | <input type="checkbox"/> \$24 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$32 |

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968 or visit our website www.sierraclub.org F94C 3108 1

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." - Aldo Leopold

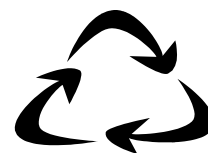
Piedmont Plateau Group
Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 5032
 Greensboro, NC 27435

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 494
 GREENSBORO, NC

September, 2006



**SIERRA
 CLUB**
 FOUNDED 1892



Recycled Paper

September, 2006—Activities at a glance

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----------------|----|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----|----------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Group Meeting @ 7:30 pm | 13 | 14 | 15 Backpack | 16 Backpack Hike |
| 17 Backpack | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Excom @ 6:30 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 Hike |

Group Directory

| | |
|--|----------|
| #Chair: Kim Yarbray (kyarbray@yahoo.com) | 632-1550 |
| #Vice-Chair: Catharine Sutherland (dancingtreesyoga@yahoo.com) | 707-0082 |
| Advertising: Ann Dickinson (Ardpuppy2@aol.com) | 674-2035 |
| Conservation: | OPEN |
| Hospitality: Caroline Cook (cook1341@hotmail.com) | 373-9059 |
| Membership: | OPEN |
| Newsletter Editor: Dixon Cook (dcook4@triad.rr.com) | 373-9059 |
| Newsletter Dist.: Bill & Cheryl Garrity (cgarrityhike@earthlink.net) | 427-0413 |
| Outings: Terry Woods (TWoodswalker@aol.com) | 580-0510 |
| Political Com: Chuck Prysby (cprysby@bellsouth.net) | 545-1336 |
| Program Chair: Kim Yarbray (kyarbray@yahoo.com) | 632-1550 |
| Publications: | OPEN |
| Publicity: Peggy Ware (mjware@triad.rr.com) | 282-6553 |
| Secretary: Dixon Cook (dcook4@triad.rr.com) | 373-9059 |
| *Treasurer: Tom Taylor (tnt2703@excite.com) | 286-9689 |
| Webmaster: Sandy O'Neill (sandino42@hotmail.com) | 279-1043 |
| *Alan Hedrick (hedwood1@yahoo.com) | 299-8351 |
| * ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2006 | |
| # ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2007 | |