

December
2007

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://northcarolina.sierraclub.org/piedmont>

Our group **Executive Committee** (Excom) has open positions. If you are interested in helping our group, and having a voice and a vote on important issues facing our community please contact: **Tom Taylor** at 286-9689 or **Catharine Sutherland** at 707-0082.

December Program: Potluck Dinner

Join us Tuesday, December 11 for a potluck dinner as we celebrate a year of adventure and environmental activism with the Sierra Club. We also plan to recognize 2007 volunteers and enjoy each other's wonderful good cheer and good food. Prepare a favorite dish or pick up something on the go. If you have any pictures from your nature journeys or tales from any misadventures, please come and share them with us. Drinks, plates, cups and utensils provided. We will meet from 7:00 until 8:30 at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch library. Feel free to bring your family!



January Program: The Environment in 2008!

In North Carolina, 2007 was a big year for the environment, and 2008 will be as well. Join us on **Tuesday, January 8** for our first program of 2008 to hear about all that has just happened in the NC legislature and all that's will happen. Christa Wagner, Lobbyist for the NC Chapter Sierra Club will give us the inside scoop and to answer all of your questions about NC politics and how they fit into the national scene.

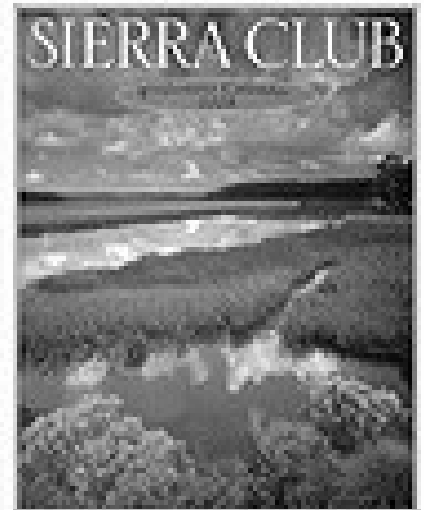
Sierra Club meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm at the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library on 1420 Price Park Road. Come share refreshments and social time at 7:00.

On Tuesday, January 8, we will have a pre-PPG Group Meeting Dinner. Everyone is welcome to gather at the Bravo Cucina Italiano at 3324 W. Friendly Avenue at 5:45 to enjoy dinner before the meeting. Please RSVP by Monday, January 7 to Dick Mearns at Dick_mearns@bellsouth.net. Our speaker will be joining us. We hope you can make it!



It's time for our annual calendar fundraiser. We have used these funds to support the Sustainable World film series at UNC-G and promoted and educated citizens about Cool Cities. The Piedmont Plateau Group gets 40% of the money from calendar sales and people who buy the calendars get gorgeous calendars packed full of photos that make it easy to remember why we work to protect our Earth. If you don't already have your 2008 calendar, or if there are people in your life who would appreciate a gift like this!
Calendars cost (this covers sales tax); Wall - 13.50 and Engagement - 14.50

Please let an ex-comm member know how many and of which style you'd like and well set them aside for you until we can arrange a time for pick-up.



Executive Committee Ballot
Sierra Club - Piedmont Plateau Group

Several positions on Group ExCom are up for election this year. A write-in vote will be accepted for any member in good standing. Two members have agreed to serve. Please vote for members for the group Executive Committee. Return Ballots must be received by Dec. 31, 2007.

— Tom Taylor

— Richard Kreager

George G. Lockhart

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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.

Dec. 7 - 9 Neusiok Trail - Croatan NF

(Easy- flat and distance) (Not scouted) We look for better weather in December than I have experienced in February in four previous trips (rained all weekend once, iced out twice). Should be cold enough that the bugs will not bother us. Indians settled the area more than 10,000 years ago and utilized pottery more than 2,500 years ago. CNF is said to have more flesh eating plants than people and is home to a large variety of mammals, birds (Red Cockaded woodpeckers maybe) and reptiles (hopefully dormant for the winter but no guarantee). We will do the southern section. Start at Oyster Point. Base-camp at Black Jack Shelter at 2.5 miles. Saturday an out-and-back to Hwy 101, appx. 10 miles. Scenery varies from pine/hardwood upland forest to cypress/palmetto swamp to sandy riverbanks. There is a surprising amount of "roll" to the topography. **Group size is limited.** Refundable-at-the-trailhead deposit required. Jerry Weston at 856-1431 before 9:00 PM. Jweston@gbwlaw.com or takeahike@earthlink.net.

Dec. 8 Waterfalls at Hanging Rock SP Hike

(easy) The Waterfalls of Hanging Rock are calling. Hidden, Window, Upper Cascades, Lower Cascades and Tory's waterfalls will lift your spirits and reveal peace in one small part of our world. The trip is easy (but includes some steep sections) with a total hiking distance of about 3 miles. The hiking will be interspersed with three drives necessary to place us near the trailheads. Call Cheryl Garrity at 427-0413 or email cgarrityhike@triad.rr.com.

Jan. 12 Tory's Den/Waterfall Hike, Hanging Rock State Park

(Easy/Moderate) Let's look signs of wildlife as we have a leisurely hike from the lake area at Hanging Rock to Tory's Den and back again. The trail takes us through a wet marsh-like area and then over Huckleberry Ridge to the legendary Revolutionary War hiding place. We'll also get a high view of Tory's Waterfall. Hanging Rock is part of the Saura Mountains so named for the Native Americans who lived along the Dan River long before America was settled by European immigrants. Contact Cheryl Garrity at 427-0413 or cgarrityhike@triad.rr.com

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Sierra Club
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December, 2007



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December, 2007—Activities at a glance

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Group Directory	
2	3	4 Hanukkah	5	6	7 Backpack	8 Backpack Hike	*Chair: Catharine Sutherland (dancingtreesyoga@yahoo.com)	707-0082
9 Backpack	10	11 Group Meeting	12 Hike	13	14	15	#Vice-Chair: Jerry Varner (varnerj@bellsouth.net)	337-4987
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Winter Begins	Advertising: Alan Hedrick (hedwood1@yahoo.com)	299-8351
23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	Conservation:	OPEN
30	31	Jan 1 New Years Day	Jan 2	Jan 3	Jan 4	Jan 5	Hospitality:	OPEN
							Membership:	OPEN
							Newsletter Editor: Dixon Cook (dcook4@triad.rr.com)	373-9059
							Newsletter Dist.: Richard Kreager	288-8297
							Outings: Terry Woods (twoodswalker@triad.rr.com)	580-0510
							Political Com: Chuck Prysby (cprysby@bellsouth.net)	545-1336
							*Program Chair: Kim Yarbray (kyarbray@yahoo.com)	632-1550
							Publicity: Peggy Ware (mjware@triad.rr.com)	282-6553
							Secretary:	OPEN
							*Treasurer: Tom Taylor (tnt2703@excite.com)	286-9689
							Webmaster: Laurie O'Neill (slowturnfarm@gmail.com)	279-1043
							* ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2007	
							# ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2008	