

**October
2009**

Piedmont Plateau Group Of the Sierra Club

We welcome your articles, photos, and outings reports. The deadline for newsletter contributions is the second Tuesday of each month. Submit contributions to Jerry Varner at: varnerj@bellsouth.net.

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

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

Our group **Executive Committee** (Excom) has open positions. If you are interested in having a voice and a vote on important issues facing our community please contact **Jerry Varner** at 337-4987.

October 13 Program: Come get the hard, cold facts about Lake El'gygytyn in Siberia (maybe even learn to pronounce its name.)

In the early winter of 2009, Tim Martin, Greensboro Day School's earth science teacher was selected to accompany an Arctic expedition to northern Siberia. He joined a team of international scientists on a scientific drilling expedition to Lake El'gygytyn in remote northeast Russia. Martin served as a member of the science team as well as an educational ambassador to students in Greensboro and around the world as a member of PolarTREC.

The primary goal of the expedition was to drill and extract sediment cores in Lake El'gygytyn, an asteroid impact crater formed 3.6 million years ago. These sediments contain the longest climate record of any location in the continental arctic. Because this basin was never glaciated during the ice ages, an uninterrupted sediment sequence accumulated at the bottom of the lake. The cores collected during the expedition are being studied and compared to similar climate records from other parts of the world, helping researchers to better understand the Arctic's role in global climate change.. Martin will discuss the scientific aspects of the project and share experiences with the club through images and video from his arctic expedition.

We hope to see you at this fascinating program at our usual meeting place and time: Edwards Library at Price Park, gathering and refreshments starting at 7:00, meeting starting sharply at 7:30.

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.

The Sierra Club pre-meeting dinner is Oct. 13 at 5:45 Taverna Opa at S. Elm and Feb.1 Place. **To RSVP please contact dick_mearns@bellsouth.net by Oct. 12th.**

A Note from Tom Clary

The Greensboro Community Sustainability Council, which has good representation of Sierra Club members including yours truly is making great progress toward completion of the DOE Energy Conservation & Alternative Energy Block Grant Program. This is a significant portion of the Obama administration stimulus funds for creating green jobs and leveraging the funds for long term sustainability projects and environmental progress. One of the DOE requirements is on-going community and citizen based input and consultation. The Sustainability Council has completed three community workshops to date and more are on the way. Sierra Club participation is greatly encouraged. This is just one of the continuing stimulus efforts being promoted by the Obama administration to achieve a healthy environment, alternative energy sources and independence from foreign oil. All of these efforts will have a significant impact on Greensboro citizens, economy, government programs and green jobs. For more detailed information, contact Tom Clary at 336/292/6283.

The Garden Hive

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Joel Landau
 is

one of the Sierra Club's most active and effective members, was instrumental in making Greensboro a Cool City and is now co-chair of our city's Community Sustainability Council. He has long been a leader fighting against urban sprawl and for neighborhood empowerment. Joel is on the Greensboro Neighborhood Congress and is General Manager of Deep Roots Market.

Sustainability Film Series

October 22, 6:30-8:30 pm "Addicted to Plastic" describes the history and scope of plastics pollution and explores the solutions.

November 12, 6:30-8:30 pm "DIRT!" tells the story of what is happening with America's soil—our most important resource.

New Members July '09

Mrs Philip Anthony	Nick Jackson
Bruce Beck	Naomi Knight
Aria Bilal	Charles F Lee
David Carpenter	Dorothy McGrath
Linda Chandler	Author Neller
Bernadette Collins	Rusty Powell
Devin Drye	Victoria Rankins
Judy Dumbloskie	C Safran
Marie Foster	Ken Weeman Jr
John Gilligan	Sheldon Ziss
Jody Howell	

GROUP DIRECTORY

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Webmaster	Gwen Exner	PPGsierra@gmail.com	
Publications			OPEN
Publicity			OPEN
Secretary			OPEN

Want to receive email notifications about meetings and environmental events? Send your email address to Tom Taylor at tnt2703@yahoo.com. Our local group sends emails using a system provided by the national organization with the usual "unsubscribe" option.

At Large: Tom Clary*

* ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2009

ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2010

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.

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.

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

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

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

Strenuous: 10 miles or elevation change more than 2500 ft.

Fall Outings 09 - PPG

October 17, 2009 Stone Mountain State Park Loop Trail - Cheryl Garrity, cgarrityhike@triad.rr.com or 336 427-0413. Moderate

See views from the valley and the mountain top. This trail is 4-5 miles in length. The first mile is strenuous as we climb to the top of the park's namesake. The climb has new wooden steps that route us up the steep parts avoiding much of the rock face. We'll see great views from the top, Cedar Rock, the Blue Ridge Parkway, maybe even colorful fall foliage. We will also see Stone Mountain Falls up close and finally the mountain viewed from the valley. There are usually a few rock climbers there taking the hard route up. This is an awesome hike that I always enjoy. Come with me and climb to the top of the world or at least the top of monadnock.

BlueRidge Parkway Drive/Walks - Saturday, October 24 (easy). Contact Terry Woods for additional information: twoodswalker@triad.rr.com (preferable first contact) or call 336-580-0510 (cell reception unreliable at times but leave a message and I'll get back to you).

Come along with us to enjoy the fall colors, beautiful countryside and varied elevation as we travel along one of my favorite portions of the Blue Ridge Parkway - south from Doughton Park to the Blowing Rock/Boone area. There are plenty of nice views and easy to moderate walks along the way to help us appreciate

the coming of fall to the mountains. If you have not been to the area or the Parkway you need to join us, if you have - come along anyway, on each visit you see something new.

We'll begin the Parkway drive about 10 AM.

We take highway #21 to the Parkway from 77 by way of 421 N, then travel south on the Parkway and return along #421 S from the Parkway near Boone, NC. If we work up an appetite we can find good places for a bite in Blowing Rock or Boone before our return. We will try to carpool or you may meet us on the Parkway.

Open Space Adopt-An-Area Report-Vance Arnold

"Thangs" are changing at Bold Moon, our adopted area. The trailer has been burned; at the work day scheduled for Saturday Oct. 24 (9-1, with lunch and drinks) there may be a fellow with a welding torch to cut up and haul away the trailer's steel frame. Another chap has promised to be there with a tractor/bush hog/bucket to do some major cleaning. But your help and interest in this place is greatly desired; please call me 272-5736 for more info and/or to sign up. I plan to have pictures of the property at our October meeting, old fashioned film camera prints on a poster board. And I am emailing Dr. Anahita, who donated her half of the property to the Open Space program regarding the treasure trove of books and records from her time on the land. Ask me about that!

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Introductory \$25 Phone (Optional) (_____) _____

Individual \$40 Joint \$50

Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Please mail this to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, Colorado, 80322-2968

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

Senator Kay Hagan (202) 224-6342

Senator Richard Burr (202) 224-3154

Representative Howard Coble (336) 333-5005

Representative Mel Watt (336) 275-9950

Representative Brad Miller (336) 574-2909

Governor Beverly Purdue (919) 733-4240

Piedmont Plateau Group
Sierra Club
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October 2009



**SIERRA
 CLUB**
 FOUNDED 1892



OCTOBER 2009						
SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Mountains-to-the Sea hike Contact Vance Arnold
<u>4</u> Full Moon	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Columbus Day	<u>13</u> Pre-meeting Dinner 5:45 pm Meeting 7:30pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> ExCom Meeting 7:15 pm Earth Fare	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Stone Mtn. Hike (moderate) Contact Cheryl Garrity
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> "Addicted to Plastic" Sustainability Film 6:30 pm Weather-	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Blue Ridge Hike (T. Woods) Bold Moon Fixup (V. Arnold)
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>