

June
2009

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.

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 having a voice and a vote on important issues facing our community please contact: **Tom Taylor** at 286-

June Program: BIG (Bicycling in Greensboro)

Finding it hard to make extra time to exercise? In recent years Greensboro has explored ways to make our city more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Join us Tuesday June 9, 2009 as Jesse Day and Jeff Sovich, co-founders of Bicycling In Greensboro (BIG), tell us what BIG has been doing, and what you can do, to make getting around Greensboro without cars a viable possibility.

They will address some common bike commute issues, cleanliness, clothing and high traffic roads. As Regional Planner with the Piedmont Triad Council of Governments, Jesse is further involved in bicycle, pedestrian and open space planning, and will also discuss advocacy efforts at the local and state level.

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 will be held June 9th at 5:45 at the Libby Hill Restaurant on the corner of Cotswold and Battleground (just past Wal-Mart). **Please contact Dick Mearns at dick_mearns@bellsouth.net by June 8th to RSVP.**



Administration Moves Closer to Allowing More Devastating Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

Washington, D.C. Today Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) announced that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reportedly given the green light to the Army Corps of Engineers to approve as many as 42 new permits for destructive mountaintop removal coal mining in Appalachia. If true, and if these permits -- more than were even approved during recent years by the Bush Administration -- were to proceed, this could mean certain destruction of hundreds of miles of Appalachian streams and hundreds of acres of America's oldest mountains.

Statement of Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope:

"Today's reported approval of a wave of new mountaintop removal coal mines would represent a leap in the wrong direction. With the bulldozers and explosives standing by in Appalachia, the Obama administration should take bold action to protect communities, streams and mountains before it's too late.

"The current permitting process is flawed, tampered with by the Bush administration to make it easier for coal companies to extract coal at the expense of the environment and coal field communities.

"Because it appears that the EPA is unwilling to intervene, it is now imperative that the White House Council on Environmental Quality take immediate action to stop the bulldozers. The Obama administration should take swift action to fix the flawed "fill rule" that enables this type of devastating mining and should act decisively to save the mountains, rivers and communities of Appalachia."

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.

Our Newsletter Editor, Dixon Cook will be celebrating his 10th anniversary as newsletter editor in September 2009. The PPG is looking for an assistant newsletter editor with the hope that the assistant will eventually replace him.

Anyone who would like to learn how our newsletter is put together and would like to help, please contact Dixon for more information at 373-9059.

Did you Know?

The Sierra Club has a radio show?

A weekly half-hour program hosted by Orli Cotel. Each week you'll hear in-depth interviews with politicians, authors, celebrities, artists, and activists inspired by nature. We also feature lifestyle tips and advice columnist "Mr. Green," as well as occasional commentary from Carl Pope.

Margaret Ware is resigning as Publicity person and we need a volunteer to take her place. The Publicity position duties are as follows:

- * Writing an extended notice of every meeting for Greensboro Library's online calendar and send to KCE Library 6 weeks before the event.
- * Preparing a poster for every meeting and place it in KCE Library a month in advance (attend club meetings and change poster).
- * Writing a brief notice of every meeting with a description of content and speaker - send to the Greensboro News and Record a minimum of two weeks before the event. (Earlier receipt appears to improve use by calendar editors)
- * Writing a brief description of each outing and send to N&R a minimum of two weeks in advance.

Please Welcome our New Members

Franklin Allen	Sylvia Bailey	Carson Christianson
Flora Clegg	J A Collins	Christopher Draughan
Sue Elliot	Constance Gillis	Christopher Gula
Jerry Hamilton	Lindsay Harris	Cheryl Hausner
Horace Jones	Jim King	Patricia Lanner
Phillip Larose	Michael McDaniel	D McMurtry
Lyndsay Moore	Alice Myers	Judith Nunn
Marci Saunders	Flake Shaw	Charles Simpson
Monique Smith	William Turner	Betty Whitt

Important Note from the Executive Committee

The Sierra Club is exploring the possibility of starting a community garden. If you are interested in managing a small plot call Jerry Varner at the Sierra Club (337-4987), or Philip Gillespie at Thunder Horse Nursery (668-2689).

"To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived, that is to have succeeded."
— **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

PPG Outings

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.

June 20 Elk Knob State Park Hike & Blue Ridge Parkway Drive

The panoramic view from the knob is beautiful. We leave the trailhead at 9:15 AM. Contact Cheryl Garrity at 427-0413 or cgar-rityhike@triad.rr.com.

This hike in the relatively new park near Boone is difficult to rate because it is very short, but very steep. The major part of the trail to the knob is rocky uneven terrain without switchbacks. A longer winding user-friendly trail is under construction. We will hike that new trail as far as it will take us and finish on the old steep trail. The distance is about 3 miles up and back, but these miles are difficult. The panoramic view from the knob is beautiful. There are exhibits at the top that help identify the many peaks within view. We may also have the opportunity to see Gray's Lilly in the park. Following the Elk Knob hike, hikers will have the opportunity to travel south on the Blue Ridge Parkway to Moses H. Cone Memorial Park which has some relatively level hiking trails and a craft center.

CST 2087766-40. Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California.

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
 P.O. Box 5032
 Greensboro, NC 27435

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June 2009



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June 2009—Activities at a glance							Group Directory	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Trails Day	Chair: Jerry Varner# (varnerj@bellsouth.net)	337-4987
							Vice-Chair:	OPEN
							Advertising: Alan Hedrick (hedwood1@yahoo.com)	299-8351
							Conservation: Paula Burch (pnt1pl@aol.com)	
							Fund Raising Chair: Kim Yarbray (kyarbray@yahoo.com)	632-1550
7 Full Moon	8	9 Group Meeting	10	11	12	13	Hospitality: Lena Vesterlund (info@swedebread.com)	790-2370
							Membership: Cheryl Garrity# (cgarrityhike@triad.rr.com)	427-0413
							Newsletter Editor: Dixon Cook (dixon.cook@gmail.com)	373-9059
							Newsletter Dist.: Richard Kreager*	288-8297
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Hike	Outings: Terry Woods (twoodswalker@triad.rr.com)	580-0510
							Political Com: Bill Markham (wtmarkha@uncg.edu)	
							Program Chair: Tom Taylor (tnt2703@yahoo.com)	286-9689
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25 Excom	26	27	Publications: Laurie O'Neill (laurieponeill@yahoo.com)	279-1043
							Publicity:	OPEN
							Secretary:	OPEN
							*Treasurer: Peggy Markham (pvmarkham@bellsouth.net)	
							Webmaster: Gwen Exner (fractalwolf@gmail.com)	
28	29	30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	At Large: Tom Clary*, Jerry Weston*, Dick Means#	
							* ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2009	
							# ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2010	