

July
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-

July Program: Green Burials: Going Green from Cradle to Grave

It seems that everyone and everything is "going green" in the 21st century ~ and not just because of the kudzu! As we respect the planet by making earth-friendly choices in our daily lives, however, many of us fail to plan earth-friendly rituals to celebrate our final passages. Join us **Tuesday, July 14**, where PPG member and elder rights advocate Catharine Sutherland will explore the latest options available for "Green Burials." Green Burials ensure that burial sites and procedures remain as eco-friendly as possible in all respects, from interment of bodies using biodegradable caskets or cherished family quilts (nix the formaldehyde!) to developing sustainable burial grounds. By the way, who knew cremation wasn't eco-friendly?? (Think carbon and mercury emissions and particulate matter...) Join us in July to learn how to go green from cradle to grave!



www.kentcasket.com

There will not be an August Program

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 July 14th at 5:45 at the Tandoor Indian Restaurant on 4612 W. Market Street. **Please contact Dick Mearns at dick_mearns@bellsouth.net by June 8th to RSVP.**

Green Cars, Fuels, and Transportation for the 21st Century (from www.sierraclub.org)

Transportation contributes approximately one-third of all U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, and must be a prime target for major greenhouse gas reductions.

Global warming emissions from the transportation sector can be reduced by increasing the production and use of clean, highly efficient vehicles powered by sustainable low carbon fuels and electricity, and by better designing communities to include accessible and convenient alternatives to driving. The Sierra Club is working to achieve three primary outcomes in this initiative:

Clean and efficient vehicles: A fleet-wide new vehicle fuel economy average of at least 42 miles per gallon by 2020 and at least 50 mpg by 2025, through a combination of state and federal standards and a shift to vehicle electrification.

Lower-carbon fuels: Reduce the carbon content of the fuels used for transportation by 15% below the 2005 level by 2030.

Expanded transportation choices and increased reliance on transportation alternatives: Reducing vehicle miles traveled per person by increasing public transit use, fostering compact communities with transportation choices (rail, bus, walking, biking), and by cutting the number of car trips taken.

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.

From Dick Mearns

I always feel guilty about all the lightweight plastic that we throw out on a regular basis because the city and county don't recycle it. I knew that Harris Teeter recycled paper and plastic shopping bags in the big bins at their store entrances, but always assumed that was it.

Upon searching their web site I was pleasantly surprised to find that take any type of lightweight plastic film. To quote from their site "you can also recycle dry cleaning film, bread bags, produce bags, newspaper bats, etc. Any lightweight plastic film is acceptable."

"We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles." — **Jimmy Carter**

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.

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).

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.

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.

July 11 Hanging Rock & Wolf Rock Hike

Wolf Rock is the perfect place to hang out and absorb the peace and ambiance of one of my favorite parks. We leave the Trailhead at 9:30 AM. Contact Cheryl Garrity. 427-0413 cgarrity-hike@triad.rr.com. Join me for a hike up the ever popular Hanging Rock Trail to the park's namesake. After we explore the area and enjoy the fantastic 270 degree view, we will take a side trail up to Wolf Rock for a different perspective. There we can enjoy the view from a shaded perch. If there are any wildflowers in bloom, I'll try to add to my collection of photographs. Wolf Rock is the perfect place to hang out and absorb the peace and ambiance of one of my favorite parks. We will hike about four miles on this moderate/easy trail. Special thanks go out to all who have worked to help protect the wonderful views.

August 1 Indian Creek Trail at Hanging Rock SP

This Hanging Rock Hike is perfect for the lazy hazy days of summer. We leave the Trailhead at 9:00 AM. Contact Cheryl Garrity. 427-0413 cgarrityhike@triad.rr.com. Indian Creek Hike is perfect for the lazy hazy days of summer. Part of the trail crisscrosses Indian Creek from the Dan River up to the park visitor center and is mostly shaded. The trail is part of NC's Mountains to Sea Trail System. We will traverse about 7 1/2 miles as we hike this moderate trail up and back. My plan is for us to keep our cool if possible, so we will stop to appreciate two waterfalls along the way and maybe dangle our toes in the creek.

August 7-9 Mt Mitchell Park Camp/Hike

The high elevation of Mt Mitchell Park makes it a special setting for camping and hiking in the southeast. You can see three states from the summit surrounded while surrounded by the fragrance of spruce and fir evergreen trees. We leave Friday, August 7, camp 1 or 2 nights, and leave early Saturday or Sunday.

We will camp at the small but beautiful campground ((9 sites)) at this park, accessed by way of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Pisgah National Forest. We'll sleep higher than most anyone east of the Mississippi River (at approx. 6800') among fragrant spruce and fir trees. We will take a variety of hikes in the park, visit the summit and explore this park which has much in common (flora & fauna) with natural areas in New England and Canada.

Contact Terry Woods for more information. Call me at: 580-0510 or (preferably) email me at: twoodswalker@triad.rr.com. Group size is limited, a \$25 deposit is required and you must sign up, be approved and deposit received prior to Aug 2.

Coming up in Sept: New River Canoe/Kayak trip, contact Terry Woods for more information, see the Sept newsletter or visit the outings webpage.

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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July 2009



**SIERRA
 CLUB**
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July 2009—Activities at a glance							Group Directory	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
			1	2	3	4 Inde- pendence Day	Chair: Jerry Varner# (varnerj@bellsouth.net)	337-4987
5	6	7 Full Moon	8	9	10	11 Hike	Vice-Chair:	OPEN
12	13	14 Group Meeting	15	16	17	18	Advertising: Alan Hedrick (hedwood1@yahoo.com)	299-8351
19	20	21	22	23 Excom	24	25	Conservation: Paula Burch (pnt1pl@aol.com)	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1 Hike	Fund Raising Chair:	OPEN
							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
							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
							Publications:	OPEN
							Publicity:	OPEN
							Secretary:	OPEN
							*Treasurer: Peggy Markham (pvmarkham@bellsouth.net)	
							Webmaster: Gwen Exner (fractalwolf@gmail.com)	
							At Large: Tom Clary*, Jerry Weston*, Dick Means#	
							* ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2009	
							# ExCom Member with term ending Dec. 31, 2010	