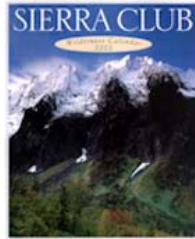


Orange- Chatham Group

www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg



2001 Calendars

The new Sierra Club calendars are now available. Filled with beautiful pictures, choose a Wilderness Wall or Engagement style calendar.

Look for our table Saturdays in front of A Southern Season, or contact Pam Hemminger at (919) 942-2273. Calendars are the OCG's largest fundraiser. Please help keep OCG active by purchasing a calendar for 2001.



Political Endorsements

Chapel Hill

Kevin Foy — "Quite simply the strongest environmental candidate that Chapel Hill has ever had for Mayor as shown by strong support for the Resource Conservation District, for the integrity of the urban services boundary, for the inclusion of significant public space in any development of the town's parking lot #5 on West Franklin Street, and for a transportation policy that seriously addresses auto trips."

Ed Harrison — "An exceptionally strong environmental candidate who has been involved in a number of important issues in both Chapel Hill and Durham. His long history of activism on storm water and transportation will serve our town well in the years ahead. In particular, he thinks regionally and will bring an ecological foundation to the regional initiatives begun by Mayor Waldorf."

Dorothy Verkerk — "Her hard work on behalf of neighborhood walkability and for safe pedestrian connections has already made her a leader in Chapel Hill. We are impressed with Verkerk's support for the rural buffer, energy alternatives, regionalism, and solid waste reduction as well as her keen eye toward public safety."

Mark Kleinschmidt — "His performance at our forum and on our questionnaire was head and shoulders above the other seven candidates. Particularly strong were his critique of road widening and walled neighborhoods and his objection to the projected traffic increase stemming from the planned development of UNC's Horace Williams property."

Carrboro

Mike Nelson — "A top-notch environmental leader. His questionnaire revealed a rare level of comfort with a wide range of environmental topics. We are especially pleased with his understanding of the interrelationship among social and environmental goods and his sense that a healthy environment is a fundamental necessity for citizens across the economic spectrum."

Allen Spalt — "Along with Chapel Hill's Joyce Brown, is unquestionably the strongest environmentalist in office in Orange County today. Carrboro citizens should be delighted that Spalt has offered his in-depth knowledge, hard work, and long-standing commitment in service to the Town. From watershed protection to transportation to open space, Spalt has been a leader, and where Spalt has led, the Town of Carrboro has become a leader in turn."

Diana McDuffee — "Understood the need to get more people onto the busses and proposed the means to do so. All of Orange County will benefit. McDuffee's perspective on connectivity -- that, with proper landscaping and traffic calming, it is a tool to bring neighborhoods together -- will also stand Carrboro in good stead. Carrboro promises to become a model alternative to the Triangle's norm of ever-wider, ever-more congested arterials and thoroughfares."

OCG Meetings

Thursday, Nov 8th at 7:30 PM in the Church of Reconciliation *Conservation by design.* Tracy Mathews of the Nature Conservancy will inform us about their goals and methods for preserving endangered habitats in North Carolina and nationally.

Wednesday, Nov 7th, 2001. ExCom meeting. 7:30 pm at the Oriental Garden Restaurant on Rosemary Street. Submit agenda items to Robert Porter at robert-porter@mindspring.com or 933-7613.

Holiday Party — Coming in December
Details will be in the next newsletter.

Message from the Chair

If we, at last, want to establish a working majority for environmental protection on the Chapel Hill Town Council, then we, the members of the Sierra Club, must get out and vote. And there is more that we can do. We can work for our candidates. We can call or email at least two friends who live in Chapel Hill, and urge them to vote for Sierra Club endorsed candidates.

Kevin Foy, Dorothy Verkerk, Mark Kleinschmidt and Ed Harrison will look out for the earth and for the public interest, and will do all in their power to create the best possible future for Chapel Hill. But they have to win the upcoming election first, and the mayor and council races in Chapel Hill are likely to be close. If we want our candidates, as elected officials, to stand up for us, then we, as concerned voters, must first stand up for them. If you live in Chapel Hill, please get out and vote on November 6 for Foy, Verkerk, Kleinschmidt and Harrison. The polls are open from 6:30 AM to 7:30PM.

OCG ExCom

Vann Bennett	Programs	942-5862
benne012@mc.duke.edu		2000
Greg Gangi	Education	932-7340
ggangi@mindspring.com		2001
Annette Jurgelski	Outings	644-0280
jurge001@mc.duke.edu		2000
Robert Porter	Chair	933-7613
robertporter@mindspring.com		2001
Robin Barry		787-5181
robinwiegerinkbarry@hotmail.com		2001
Bill Bracey		967-4116
arbornet@mindspring.com		2001
Gustavo Ocoro	Conservation	918-7773
gusyanne@earthlink.net		2001
Peter Todd		942-2581
hartodd@mindspring.com		2000
Dan Coleman	Political	
dan-coleman@nc.rr.com		2001
Denise Gammonley	Membership	
denise_gammonley@hotmail.com		2001

Hillsborough By-Pass - A Bad Idea

Thirty years ago NCDOT was looking for a possible bypass location around Hillsborough and selected the shortest distance between two points. The straight-line approach ran smack into natural and cultural assets of this historic community. This controversial plan has laid dormant while Hillsborough grew slowly.

Now the congestion on Main Street (Churton) is forcing officials to think about a bypass again. The old idea, NCDOT project U3808, has been revived yet. Less than a mile east of the Old Courthouse, road builders would pave a new 4-lane bypass/bridge directly through a section of the Eno River Valley that has been dedicated with conservation deed restrictions held by Preservation North Carolina.

Traversing Cates Creek and the Eno River over a vast area of floodplain, the bridges would disturb an Orange County Natural Area (EO8) called the Poplar Ridge Steep Slopes and Bottomland. The cultural assets in the way in-

clude prehistoric archeological sites, Ayr Mount Historic Site, and the 1948 Occaneechee Speedway.

The Eno River Association, the Hillsborough Preservation Fund, the NC Nature Conservancy, and Preservation North Carolina have registered official complaints and individuals have been writing letters of protest. Our preserved natural and cultural areas should not have to bear the brunt of progress. The protection of natural and cultural assets will yield a higher quality of life for this area. Long-range plans are for a linear Eno River State Park to stretch from Durham to Occaneechee Mountain Natural Area in Hillsborough. Other plans call for a Mountains-to-Sea trail along this same corridor.

The solution to Hillsborough's motor vehicle bypass dilemma is to make improvements at existing bridge locations and avoid direct impacts to cultural assets when making new road alignments. Sierra Club members are urged to learn more about this controversial project and look for proper channels to voice or record opinions on this issue.

Outings

NOV 2-4 (Fri-Sat) Apple Orchard Mountain and Falls. Car camp and day hikes off the Blue Ridge Parkway near Peaks of Otter. Call Chris or Odile Gould (HWG) at 919-493-1194 8 - 9 p.m., or email chris_gould@mindspring.com.

NOV 3 (Sat) 10 a.m. Hike on the American Tobacco Trail. About 6 miles roundtrip. Hike starts behind Hillside HS. Go in at Riddle Road. Lunch at Foster's restaurant following the hike. Easy. Call Janet Burhans-Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or jhitti0326@cs.com.

NOV 10 (Sat) Contemplative Places. A short walk of 4-6 miles to local quiet, scenic locations. Easy to moderate pace and terrain. Call Hal Rubin (CG) at 19-380-8322.

NOV 11 (Sun) Trim-for-that-Turkey Trot. Prepare for the upcoming holiday indulgences on this 4.5-mile moderate hike at William B. Umstead State Park (off Harrison Avenue). Start time 2 p.m. Contact Jerry Ogarek (CG) at 919-783-7094 or jerry@ipass.net.

NOV 17 (Sat) The Sierra Club and the Triangle Rail-to-Trails Conservancy are co-sponsoring a series of service outings to build the American Tobacco Trail. We are working to open the Southern-most portions in Durham County. Meet at Massey Chapel Rd. where it intersects the ATT. Start time is 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Difficulty level varies-something for everyone! We will break for lunch. Bring work gloves and water. A request for tools will be distributed. For additional information contact Thad Howard (HWG) at Thad.Howard@duke.edu or 919-544-9126.

NOV 17 (Sat) Meander along a creek and through the woods in Duke Forest. Be prepared for a strenuous climb and two water crossings. No pets or small children on this moderately difficult hike. Meet at gate 25 on Whitfield Road off Hwy. 86. Hike time approximately 2-1/2 - 3 hours. Contact Susanne Gomolski (OCG) 919-929-3805 until 11:00 pm.

NOV 17 (Sat) Weymouth Woods Sandhills Nature Preserve Day Hike. Imagine the trees of Weymouth, England, as did the former owner of this estate when he viewed the longleaf pines. Listen for the sounds of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, a permanent resident of the Sandhills. An easy hike to explore our natural heritage; about an hour's drive from the Triangle. Contact Larry Henson (CG) at lwh@nc.rr.com or 919-661-8371 before 10 p.m.

NOV 23-25 (Thanksgiving holiday) Edisto River/Four Holes Swamp Paddling Trip. Stay at South Carolina's Givhan's Ferry State Park--where one can paddle on the beautiful blackwater of the Edisto or explore the neighboring Four Holes Swamp/Frances Beidler Forest. This is a repeat of 2000's very successful trip, which included a communal "Thanksgiving" dinner. Due to limited facilities, reservations will need to be made as soon as possible. Easy to moderate. For information/approval, contact Chandler Stewart (CG) at (910) 739-4879, (910) 671-4486 or cstewart4@mindspring.com.

NOV 30-DEC 2 Doughton Park Base Camp. Easy backpack, strenuous day hikes. Historic ruins, great views, mountain streams. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 p.m. or e-mail udry@unc.edu.

DEC 8 (Sat) Contemplative Places. A short walk of 4-6 miles to local quiet, scenic locations. Easy to moderate pace and terrain. Call Hal Rubin (CG) for information at 919-380-8322.

DEC 8 (Sat) 10 a.m. Hike around Duke's east campus, then over to Trinity Park and around some of the side streets there. Easy. Lunch at George's garage after the hike. Call Janet Burhans-Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or jhitti0326@cs.com.

DEC 15 (Sat) Sierra Club/TRTC service outing. See description above at Nov 17.

More outings information is available on-line!



U.S. Postage PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Chapel Hill, NC
Permit No. 464