

# Orange-Chatham Group

## Political forums

Please come out and learn the positions of the local candidates on environmental issues. During the forums questions from the audience will be welcome. Because of the large number of candidates this year we have decided to do a separate forum for the mayoral candidates.

*Mayoral Candidates Forum* - Wednesday, Sept 26, 7pm, Chapel Hill Town Hall:

*Council Candidates Forum* - Tuesday, October 9, 7pm, Chapel Hill Town Hall:



SIERRA CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

### Thank You Joyce!

The local Sierra Club would like to recognize Joyce Brown for her relentless effort on behalf of protecting the environment. In the years, that OCG compiled a scorecard, Joyce always scored 100%. Joyce has now finishing her third term on the Chapel Hill Town Council and she has decided to not run for reelection. Joyce was the recipient of multiple OCG Awards during her terms.

In particular we would like to make sure that her efforts on promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency and greater waste reduction is remembered by creating the Joyce Brown Fund (see story below) and the annual Joyce Brown forum on an issue relating to the flow of energy and or materials in our society. We see the forum as part of our on going effort to increase our activity in the area of environmental education.

### Promote a sustainable energy future

Are you dissatisfied with the Bush energy plan that is loaded with subsidies and tax incentives for conventional forms of energy but actually cuts in to funding for renewable energy technology?

The Bush-Cheney team has largely abandoned US government funding for investment in renewable energy. At the end of the Carter administration more than 2.7 billion was being spend on research in renewable but since the Carter administration we have been on a bumpy road downwards. The Bush-Cheney demonstration is proposing the second lowest budget in 20 years. In their budget request for 2002 they propose a 49% cut in wind power R&D

### Upcoming OCG General Meeting

**Thursday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the Church of Reconciliation** Greg Gangi will speak about his experiences in the Colombian Amazon where he spent two years.

**Wednesday, Sept 5, 2001. ExCom meeting.** 7:30 pm at the Oriental Garden Restaurant on Rosemary Street. Submit agenda items to Robert Porter at robertporter@mindspring.com or 933-7613.

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*The political committee needs volunteers to help organize a political forum for Carrboro and to develop and present positions on a variety of local, state, and federal issues. To get involved, contact Dan Coleman at dan-coleman@nc.rr.com or 928-9237.*

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### 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
peter.todd@ushworks.com		2001
Dan Coleman	Political	
dan-coleman@nc.rr.com		2001
Denise Gammonley	Membership	
deniseg@email.unc.edu		2001

and a 44% cut in solar from 2001 levels.

This comes at a time when wind and solar face bright prospect. Wind power is now being produced at a price that is comparable to coal power without all the environmental externalities and demand for photovoltaic cells is also rising rapidly. A growing number of energy experts speak of the US Midwest becoming one day the Persian Gulf of wind power. These cuts would not be so irksome if other sorts of energy were being subjected to similar cuts but as noted above conventional energy producers are in for a big windfall if Congress approves the Bush energy plan.

We in the OCG Group would like to encourage you to do something about that by considering donating money to us so that we may provide venture capital to small companies in the alternative energy business. We intend to do this by creating the Joyce Brown Fund (see above) that we will invest in a mutual fund called the New Alternatives Fund (ticker symbol NALFX).

The New Alternatives Fund invests in small companies that produce goods that serve the environment. Alternative energy, recycling, fuel cells, clean air and water, pollution prevention, conservation – their environmentally oriented investments – are a positive form of

social investment. Unlike other socially conscious funds this one does not rely solely on exclusions. The bulk of the funds money is invested in alternative energy or companies that are producing products to conserve energy such as; Fuelcell Energy, Inc, Astropower (solar cells-photovoltaic), Emcore Corporation (efficient lighting products and solar cells),and Cree Research (energy efficient lighting production).

We are hoping that members will consider contributing part of their tax refund. With over 2300 members if everyone contributed \$25 dollars we would be able to raise a chunk of money. Furthermore, we intend to use whatever dividends results to help us pay for the production of the annual Joyce Brown forum.

If you would like more information on this endeavor please contact Greg Gangi at [ggangi@mindspring.com](mailto:ggangi@mindspring.com) or you can also contact the fund New Alternatives Fund, Inc by mail 150 Broadhollow Road, Melvill, NY 11747 or by phone 800-423-8343.

Please make out your check to the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club and mail them to Orange-Chatham Sierra Club Group, Box 1303, Chapel Hill, NC 25414

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## Sierra Club Outings

Current Sierra Club Outings are available to view on-line at the OCG Web Site. The link to this site is [www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg](http://www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg) and follow the Events link. More information can be had by contacting the Outings Chair.

## OCG Email Listserv

You can receive announcements by email. Send a message to [listserv@unc.edu](mailto:listserv@unc.edu), leaving the subject field blank with the message:

**Subscribe sierraclub-org your name** (insert your first and last name instead of "your name").

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