

Orange- Chatham Group

www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg

Nov 2002

Events

2003 Sierra Club Calendars are now for sale!

November 16 — Bolin Creek Service Outing Join us for a long term project to restore the native habitat to Bolin Creek.

November General Meeting — Spiritual Ecology
Church of Reconciliation, Thursday Nov 14 at 7:30 p.m.



Report from the Sierra Transportation Forum

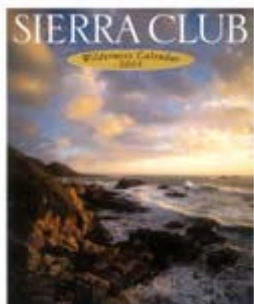
On September 21st the Sierra Club and the Conservation Council of North Carolina co-hosted a forum entitled "Triangle Transportation: Choosing and Funding our Future." The forum provided participants the opportunity to learn about mobility choices and forms of growth that would help support transit and reduce the negative impacts of Sprawl

Keynote speaker Jim Motavalli gave a broad overview, stressing the relationship between land use planning and transportation. He explained how car commutes are subsidized, including provision of parking for employees. He discussed "externalized" costs of the price of gasoline which may be as much \$15/gallon (environmental and social costs as well as tax subsidies).

Ellen Reckhow, Vice-Chair of the Durham County Board of Commissioners, showed a vision of what well-planned transit-oriented communities can look like and described implementation policies. She emphasized the importance of regional planning and local coordination with regional plans. She showed how it is possible to create compact walkable communities by investing in transit and directing development to the areas served by the transit. Her presentation included images of new, clean train stations that provided plenty of bike racks (that were full of bikes) and easy access to buses.

Relating the history of the Hillsborough Street redesign project, Nina Szlosberg, president of the Conservation Council of North Carolina, showed

2003 Sierra Club Calendars



The new 2003 Engagement and Wall Calendars are available at \$12.00 and \$11.00. Calendar sales are the largest source of income for the Orange-Chatham Group.

That income helps us stay active and keep you, our members, and the community informed about environmental news and happenings that effect us locally. To purchase calendars, call Pam Hemminger at (919) 942-2273 or email at pamsh@earthlink.net.

OCG Meetings & News

Wednesday, November 6, 7:30 p.m. ExCom meeting. At the Oriental Garden Restaurant on Rosemary Street. Submit agenda items to Robert Porter at robertporter@mindspring.com or 933-7613.

Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting at the Church of Reconciliation. Spiritual Ecology will be discussed by Dr. Carole Crumely, Professor of Anthropology at UNC. Dr. Crumely will address our current relationship with the environment from her perspective as an archeologist and cultural

Transportation...

participants how changes are already taking place here in the triangle. The key to change, she says, is enabling broad citizen participation in the planning process.

The Mayors' Panel made it clear that the triangle lacks the strong regionalism that will be necessary to reverse the effects of sprawl. Mayor Lang of Cary called the Streets at Southpoint a glaring example of a disregard for regional planning, and said the region's legislative delegation would be key to achieving funding for major transportation projects. The State Highway Trust Fund is currently only committed to building more roads. In order to build alternative modes of transportation there needs to be a

Continued...

OCG ExCom

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dedicated source of funding, like Charlotte's half-cent tax on gas.

During her presentation on transportation funding Pat Carstensen made the case for even higher taxes. She proposed using a "Joseph strategy", with which we would raise the tax on gasoline when the price was lower in order to stabilize the market and raise revenue for alternative forms of transportation.

Outings

1st and 3rd Saturdays of each Month - American Tobacco Trail Service Outing. Friends of the American Tobacco Trail and the Sierra Club are continuing their efforts to extend the American Tobacco Trail in southern Durham and surrounding counties. Generally, the group meets on the first and third Saturdays of every month starting at 9:00 AM. The workgroup meets at the Scott King Rd. crossing of the ATT. If you would like to know more about trails and greenways construction or maintenance and other service outings in the Triangle, contact Thad Howard (HWG) at 919-544-9126 or e-mail thad.howard@duke.edu.

3rd Saturday - Bolin Creek Trail. Work is continuing on the Bolin Creek habitat restoration project. After a fairly small amount of work, a significant improvement is now visible along the Greenway. Almost all of the Chinese privet has been removed from the first target section, and we've put a dent in the bittersweet and wisteria as well. There may be an opportunity this winter to reintroduce some more desirable native species.

This is a long-term project, and we need many more volunteers. It's hard work, but very rewarding. The difference is visible immediately, and the effect is long lasting. After the initial pilot project is complete, other sections of the creek will be targeted. The plan is to include neighborhood groups from the various areas adjacent to the creek.

We meet the third Saturday of each month at the Greenway entrance on Bolinwood Drive, just off Hillsborough Street in Chapel Hill. Please contact Bill Bracey at arbornet@mindspring.com, or 942-9937 if you are interested in participating.

NOV 2-3 Roanoke River. Paddle the chocolate-colored water of the lower Roanoke River. The Roanoke River Canoe Camping Trail meanders through part of largest intact and least disturbed bottomland hardwood and cypress-tupelo forest ecosystems remaining in the mid-Atlantic. To heighten the experience, we'll camp in the swamp/forest on canoe-in platforms. EASY. Size is limited--call early. Contact Chandler Stewart (CG): phone--910-739-4879 or 910-671-4486 or e-mail at cstewart4@mindspring.com.

NOV 3 (Sun) Falls Lake. Day hike at Falls Lake hiking the NC 98 to New Light Rd. trail. The trail is 3.4 miles, so hiking boots or good walking shoes would be appropriate. Lunch will be a picnic along the way so please bring some food and plenty of water. Please e-mail Sarah Crouch at sarahcrouch@yahoo.com to sign up.

NOV 15-17 New River Trail Base Camp. Long but easy day hike along the northern part of the New River Trail in Virginia. This lovely trail is built on an old railroad right-of-way through a historic area, following the banks of the New River, so it is

nearly level. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 P.M., or e-mail udry@unc.edu.

NOV 16 (Sat.) Occonneechee Mountain. Visit the restored Indian encampment in Hillsborough and then hike to the top of Occonneechee Mountain, which was sacred to the Indians. Enjoy a great view from the top and then hike back through historic Hillsborough. Approx. 6 miles roundtrip. Moderate. Contact Matt Brown (OCG) at 919-732-0855.

NOV 17 (Sun) Falls Lake. Come and enjoy fall at Falls Lake on a moderate eight-mile hike. Contact Margaret Anderson (OCG) at andcamlib@hotmail.com or 919-493-0397 before 10 p.m.

NOV 22 SIGN-UP DEADLINE for Nov. 29th backpack (see below).

NOV 23 (Sat) Eno River Turkey Trot. Burn off some calories in anticipation of Turkey Day at the Eno River State Park. Trails TBD; total trip under 6 miles and moderate. Contact Kristi Chilton at 919-361-1870 or joybird7@yahoo.com. Trip is limited to 12.

NOV 28-DEC 1: Edisto River. The Post-Thanksgiving paddling weekend on South Carolina's Edisto River is back! This wild, black water river is one of the world's longest free-flowing black water bodies of water. As before, we'll car-camp at the luxurious Givhan's Ferry State Park. Charleston is less than half an hour away for those with history and sightseeing also in mind. We'll plan to have a communal/pot-luck dinner on Saturday evening after paddling. EASY. Contact Chandler Stewart (CG) by phone at 910-739-4879 or 910-671-4486 or by e-mail at cstewart4@mindspring.com. *NOTE: draught conditions may force the trip to be postponed, modified or even cancelled. A decision will be made as close to the trip as possible.*

NOV 29th (Fri at 1 pm) Sierra Cub Childrens Bike Ride. Children and their parents, grandparents or guardians bike ride at Umstead Park. Use the Harrison Ave entrance and we'll meet in the parking lot straight ahead there. Call or email Shirley Phillips to sign up : 567-2608, mrwhisk@aol.com.

NOV 29- DEC 1 - Doughton Park wilderness backpack , winter camp and day Hike. Short one-mile backpack in Friday and day hike (13 miles) Saturday to get back in shape after Thanksgiving excess. Return Sunday morning before the crowds. Easy backpack; strenuous dayhike. Call Chris or Odile Gould (OCG) at 919-493-1194, or email chris_gould@mindspring.com, before Nov 22.

DEC 1 (Sun) Umstead State Park. Did you eat too much over Thanksgiving? Feel like a stuffed turkey? Come out for a hike at the Harrison Ave/Exit 287 side of Umstead State Park for a 5-mile hike. Hiking boots are recommended. Please bring snacks and plenty of water, but after the hike we will go somewhere to warm up and be fed low-calorie food. Please e-mail Sarah Crouch at sarahcrouch@yahoo.com to sign up.

Seniors Outings

NOV 2 3:00 PM Clemmons State Park (Johnston County) hike and potluck dinner and potluck dinner at the home of Amy Devereaux (919 938-0761). Meet at the parking lot.

Nov. 30 Sat. 3pm Apex Lake. Walk around Apex Lake, followed by pot luck dinner at Cathie Townsend. Please call Cathie at 851-8084 or email at cathie123@aol.com.

More outings information is available on-line at
<http://www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg>



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