

Events

Sierra Club's Fall Transportation Forum
September 21, 2002

September General Meeting
Church of Reconciliation, Thursday Sep 12 at 7:30 p.m.



The "Price" of Power

"Power Politics", a report issued by the Institute for Southern Studies, recently looked at the influence that Progress Energy gains by donations to elected officials. One stark illustration involves Rep David Price who refused to support our local officials in their call for a full hearing by the NRC on CP&L's plan to create the world's largest highly radioactive waste dump just south of Orange County.

When asked why he adopted a "hands-off" approach, Price told the *Independent* magazine this spring, "My guess is I did more than any other elected official. I felt I had done what I could do."

"Power Politics" asserts Price had other reasons. CP&L has contributed \$36,650 dollars to Price since 1993, and has been his largest corporate donor for the last four elections.

Clean Air

Clean air is essential to the environment, public health, and the economy in North Carolina. Our most serious air quality problems include haze, nutrient deposition and ground-level ozone. Air pollution has reduced visibility in our mountains from 93 miles to between 24 and 36 miles. For a view of Shining Rock Wilderness via webcam visit: <http://webcam.srs.fs.fed.us/>

When air pollutants containing nitrogen are deposited into streams, lakes, and coastal waters they can cause algae blooms and dramatic fish kills. Nitrogen deposition is the largest airborne nutrient problem in North Carolina, with most of this pollution coming from animal production facilities, motor vehicles and industry. Nitrogen Oxides (NOx), one source of nutrient pollution, also contributes to ground-level ozone formation. In urban areas, over 50% of NOx comes from motor vehicles. NOx combines with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in hot sunny weather to form ground-level ozone.

Ground-level ozone is the most pressing air quality problems in our area. High ozone levels damages leaves on trees and crops. In fact, in 1995 ground-level ozone was responsible for 2.7 billion in crop damage nationwide. Ozone is unhealthy to breathe, particularly for those with asthma and other respiratory ailments; and for people who work or exercise vigorously outdoors. The American Lung Association's 2002 State of the Air report ranks American's 25 most ozone-polluted cities. North Carolina has three cities on this list

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OCG Meetings & News

Wednesday, September 4, 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, September 12 at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting at the Church of Reconciliation.

Habitat Preservation and the Audubon Society Please join us for a discussion with Marsha Stephens, president of the local Audubon society on this organization's goals and strategies for wildlife preservation.

NC Sierra Club's Fall Transportation Forum September 21st

Not only do you have the opportunity to attend this event, you can actually help plan it. Volunteers are needed to join the Forum Planning Committee to work on publicity, invitations, getting the gimmicks, and more! Call or email Amanda Vanega, Conservation Intern, as soon as possible if you are willing to join the Planning Committee or for more information! Sierra Club phone: 919-833-8467; home phone: 919-384-1012; email: clean-water@sierraclub-nc.org.



OCG ExCom

Robert Porter	Chair	929-6983 2003
Vann Bennett	Programs	942-5862 2003
Bill Bracey		967-4116 2002
Dan Coleman	Political	
Greg Gangi		932-7340 2002
Annette Jurgelski	Outings	644-0280 2003
Norman Miller		2003
Gustavo Ocoro	Conservation	918-7773 2002
Dena Puco	Secretary	2002
Andrea Rohrbacher	Treasurer	
Peter Todd	Media	942-2581 2003

with Charlotte ranking 9th, the Triangle 13th, and the Triad 21st in the nation.

Most of us have seen ozone pollution warnings on the TV news. Individuals with respiratory illness are at risk on Code Orange Days, and even healthy people risk lung damage at Code Red levels. Unhealthy ozone exposure can be prevented by limiting outdoor work and exercise on high ozone days, or by scheduling activities before noon.

Poor air quality is a problem that affects all of us, and all of us can be a part of the solution. If 100 drivers of mid sized cars car-pooled once a week for the 22 weeks of ozone season they would save 227 lbs of NOx. If 1000 people car-pooled once a week, that would mean a reduction of more than one ton of NOx emissions. Together we can make a significant difference with minimal changes to our daily routine. For more tips on how you can help on ozone action days go to: <http://daq.state.nc.us/airaware/coalition/o3tips.shtml>

The Triangle Air Quality Coalition is made up of concerned businesses, agencies and other organizations dedicated to improving our area's air quality. To join the Air Quality Coalition, or if you have any questions, please contact the Triangle Area Coordinator Marti Mattox at: marti.mattox@ncmail.net or (919)-733-1805. Or visit our hotline at 1-888-RU4NCAIR.

For the daily ozone forecast go to: <http://daq.state.nc.us/airaware/ozone/>.

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.

AUG 16 SIGN-UP DEADLINE - Shining Rock Aug 25-25 (see below)

AUG 18 Mason Farm Hike Enjoy a leisurely evening hike on the grounds of Mason Farm in Chapel Hill. Listen to the birds and watch the sun descend. Possible dinner afterward at a local restaurant. Contact Gustavo Ocoro (OCG) at 919-942-

7611 or e-mail to: gustavoocoro@hotmail.com

AUG 23-25 Mt. Mitchell Base Camp. Short easy backpack. Moderate day hikes to views that are not hard to earn. Wildflowers are still abundant in the cool high mountains at this time of year. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 p.m. or e-mail udry@unc.edu.

AUG 24-25 Shining Rock Blueberry Pancake...er, Backpack. Enjoy some cool mountain air on this mile-high trek. See the real Cold Mountain made famous by the book. Eat your fill of blueberries from the trail. See panoramic views from some of the many balds in this area. Find out how Shining Rock got its name. Moderate backpack. Contact Chandler Stewart (CG) by phone at 910-739-4879 or 910-671-4486 or by e-mail at cstewart4@mindspring.com.

SEP 13 (Fri) Sign-up Deadline: Bear Island Backpack. See below.

SEP. 21 Day Hike Moderate 2-hour hike on the picturesque Johnston Mill Nature Preserve off Mt. Sinai Road in Orange County. Can be easily reached from the Hwy 86 exit on I-40. For sign-up and directions, contact Eric Block (OCG) 919-489-4255 or Annette Jurgelski (OCG) 919-644-0280.

SEP 20-22 Overmountain Base Camp. Short easy backpack. Appreciate the stunning North Carolina balds. Moderate day hikes take us to breath-taking views. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 PM or email udry@unc.edu.

SEP 20-22 Bear Island Backpack. Bask in the sun, explore the dunes, swim in the ocean, or simply do nothing at all. Saturday's full moon promises excellent stargazing. Enjoy 3 miles of remote beach on one of the Atlantic coast's most unspoiled islands. Arrive on Friday or Saturday by passenger ferry then backpack and easy .25-mile walk to the semi-primitive campsite where you will spend the night among the sand dunes. No pets. Partially refundable \$10 deposit covers camping fee. Suitable for beginners. Contact Keisha Roberts (CG) email at ker@paradymstudio.com.

OCT 18-20 Shut-in Trail Base Camp. Cuning technology allows day hikes that are downhill all the way, criss-crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway, and completing the trip with a visit to the North Carolina Arboretum. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 PM, or email udry@unc.edu.
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 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.

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



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