

Orange- Chatham Group

www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg

The OCG passed the following resolution with other local environmental groups calling for a halt to rail shipments of radioactive waste due to the threat of terrorism.

Resolution to Attorney General Roy Cooper to Halt Rail Shipment of High-Level Nuclear Waste across North Carolina

Whereas: "Spent" nuclear fuel rods are among the most dangerous materials on earth, and;

Whereas: CP&L/Progress Energy has elected to transport this waste monthly by rail to the Shearon Harris reactor, which is becoming the largest consolidation of waste in the nation, despite all other utilities' practice to store this high-level nuclear waste on-site where it was generated, and;

Whereas: Radiation released by attack or accident with transport could cause injury and death, other long-term health crises, and cause billions of dollars in property damage, while attacks on waste storage pools at any Progress Energy plant could lead to a statewide disaster,* and;

Whereas: These rail shipments to Wake County cannot be protected against determined attack, as established in an October 2002 vulnerability assessment by a military expert, and;

Whereas: These rail lines travel through 2 states, 10 counties, dozens of municipalities, and adjacent to Fort Bragg, a huge (and nationally critical) military reservation, and;

Whereas: The Oklahoma City bombing and the September 11 attacks demonstrate that individuals and groups exist who have the inclination and the ability to attack these shipments, and;

Whereas: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not evaluated terrorism risks regarding these transports, local authorities are neither trained nor equipped to deal with radiation releases, and the public is not protected against financial losses, and;

Whereas: On October 8th, twenty-seven state Attorneys General demanded that Congress take immediate action to protect nuclear facilities from terrorism, including North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, who is empowered by the State Constitution and by legal precedent to halt shipments of the high-level waste;

Therefore, the undersigned calls for NC Attorney General Roy Cooper to exercise his authority to halt Progress Energy's shipments of high-level nuclear waste, in order to safeguard the lives, health, and property of North Carolinians.

Volunteers Needed

The OCG needs more members to become involved. Over the years, the OCG has been recognized as a community voice for conservation, as a resource for people wanting to enjoy nature, and as an advocate for natural areas and sane development. Please become a leader and help to keep OCG a community leader as well.

MARCH 2003



OCG Meetings

Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m. General Meeting at the Church of Reconciliation.

Organic Farming

Please join us to hear Bill Dow speak about his experiences as a physician, health care activist, and organic farmer. Bill came to the Chapel Hill area following medical training in pediatrics at Vanderbilt as a Clinical Scholar at UNC. The charge of the Clinical Scholars Program at that time was to change the practice of medicine. Bill has approached the issue of medical care on the preventive side by focusing on producing healthy food. He helped start the Carrboro Farmers' Market in the late '70s, and has been producing organic food on his own farm in Chatham County for 20 years. If you go to the Farmers' market, or have enjoyed fresh salads at some of the local restaurants, you may already have enjoyed the fruits of Bill's labors. The title of his talk will be "Why farm?"

Wednesday, February 5th, 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. All OCG members are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Check it Out!

The OCG web site, www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg, includes information about meetings, conservation, outings, links to sites of interest, and much more.

OCG Contacts

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National Sierra Club Elections—Please Vote!

You will receive your ballot for the Club's Board of Directors in March. Please take a little time to review the ballot and cast your votes.

New OCG Listserv email list

Orange-Chatham Group maintains a listserv to inform members of important events and action items. Anyone may subscribe to this list. Posting is limited to subscribers.

To subscribe to this list, go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/SCRIPTS/WA.EXE?SUBED1=nc-ocg-news&A=1> and click on "Join or leave the list."

To post to this list, send your message to: NC-OCG-NEWS@lists.sierraclub.org

To contact the owner of this list, send a message to: NC-OCG-NEWS-request@lists.sierraclub.org Archives of this list may be viewed at: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/NC-OCG-NEWS.html>

To leave, or unsubscribe from the list, go to the above URL and subscribers may also manage their subscription or unsubscribe by clicking on "Join or leave the list."

Outings

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 arbor-net@mindspring.com, or 942-9937 if you are interested in participating.

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.

MAR 9 (Sun): Eno River Hike. Tired of winter? We'll explore along the Eno River to see if we can see signs of approaching Spring. Meeting place to start the hike will be the Durham Wholefoods/Wellsprings off of 9th Street where we can join up and either carpool or follow each other to the trailhead. Please bring water and a lunch to eat along the way. Appropriate footwear will be required. Well-behaved canines on leashes allowed. Contact Sarah at sarahrcrouch@yahoo.com to sign up.

MAR 16 (Sat) New Hope Creek. Hike along New Hope Creek from Mt. Sinai to Erwin Road (approx. 4 miles). Some rock scrambling but otherwise easy trail with picturesque views of the creek. Repeat of Dec. 28 outing cancelled because of conditions in Duke Forest. Contact Annette Jurgelski at 919-644-0280.

MAR 21-23 Croatan National Forest Hikes. Easy hikes on dry trails in the swamps of Eastern North Carolina, before the

insects, before the heat, but in time for early wildflowers and curious night sounds. Day hikes and a very short backpack. Call Dick Udry (OCG) at 919-929-1779 between 8 and 10 PM or e-mail udry@unc.edu.

MAR 29-30 LUMBER RIVER. Paddle on this moderate section of southeastern N.C.'s prettiest blackwater river, located just south of Lumberton. Total paddling distance is approximately 22 miles, with overnight camping on Saturday beside the River (a remote canoe-in site.) No pets or children under age 13. Leader reserves the right to change paddling location if weather and/or water level dictates. Contact Chandler Stewart (CG): cstewart4@mindspring.com or by phone between 8:30 & 10:30 P.M. at 910-739-4879 or 910-536-4416.

MAR 30 (Sunday): The Hwy 70/Glenwood side of Umstead Park. Thinking of getting in shape for the approaching warm weather? We'll hike 5 miles to burn off some calories. Meeting place to start the hike will be the back parking lot of the 70 side of the Park. Please bring water and snacks, but we'll have lunch afterwards at a nearby restaurant. Appropriate footwear will be required. Well-behaved canines on leashes allowed. Contact Sarah at sarahrcrouch@yahoo.com to sign up.

MAR 30 (Sunday): Hike Hemlock Bluffs, Cary. Parents/Grandparents or Mentors and their children are invited to join us for a hike approximately 2 miles in length. We'll look for salamanders, birds and signs of spring. Time of hike will be subject to weather- please call Shirley 567-2608 or email mrwhisk@aol.com by the day before and we'll set a time to meet then.

Volunteers Needed

EXCOM Members: The OCG needs people willing to serve on the Executive Committee (EXCOM) of this Sierra Club group. The EXCOM is the group of elected officers that makes decision on behalf of the Orange-Chatham Group of the Sierra Club. We only meet once a month, ten or eleven times during the year.

Membership Chair: The OCG needs a Membership Chair to promote our activities, to greet members at the general meeting each month, and to perform other tasks related to membership and volunteer activities.

If you are interested please call Robert Porter at 929-6983 or email at robertporter@mindspring.com



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