

Orange- Chatham Group

Summer Picnic

The **Orange Chatham Group's** summer picnic is right around the corner. Come out and join fellow Sierrans for an evening. More details in the June newsletter, or check on-line.



www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg/

The Southern Forest Report

The Southern Forest Initiative Report will be discussed by Gary Phillips, a pro-environment former Chatham county commissioner. Gary also is on the board of directors of the Dogwood Alliance, a group of activists dedicated to defending southern forests and their human communities (<http://www.dogwoodalliance.org/aboutus.asp>). Hardwood forests with their diversity of trees provide an essential environment for a variety of birds and other species. Restoration of a hardwood habit after commercial clear-cutting can take over a century. Yet, in just the past 10 years over 100 new chip mills have been constructed in the South. Chip mills are highly mechanized facilities that grind whole logs into chips for paper and chipboard production. They are the most unregulated, highly mechanized arm of industrial forestry, easily turning 100 truckloads of trees into chips a day. The result is massive clear-cutting and the rapid conversion of biologically unique Southern forests into single-species tree farms. We are now facing a major crisis of habitat loss in North Carolina as the result of industrial forestry and replacement of natural hardwoods areas with pine tree monocultures. Gary will outline the scope of this disaster and also present strategies for restoration of our forests.

Congratulations — The OCG welcomes new Excom members Joyce Brown and Mary MacDowell. In addition, Bill Bracey and Greg Gangi will be returning to another Excom term.

The OCG also wishes to welcome Kristen Kamerath who will be stepping on board as our new Membership Chair.

OCG Meetings & News

Thursday, May 8, 7:30 PM in the Church of Reconciliation

The Southern Forest Initiative Report will be discussed by Gary Phillips. See main story to left.

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

OCG Contacts

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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 arbornet@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.

MAY 10-11 WHITE OAK RIVER. Paddle another one of N.C.'s blackwater rivers--this one near the coast, located close to New Bern & Jacksonville. We'll paddle a total of 19 miles, and camp out Sat night by the River. We will end our trip early Sunday afternoon at the community of Stella. This should be an easy trip, until close to the end when the potential of wind and tidal flow could be factors. No pets or children under age 13. Leader reserves the right to change paddling location if weather and/or water level dictate. 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.

May 17 (Sat) 10:00 AM Lake Johnson. Morning hike at Lake Johnson and putluck brunch afterward at B.J.Stuhmer's home.

Meet at parking lot on Lake Dam Road. Hike leader is Sally Cook 467-3642.

MAY 24 (Sat.) AT) Duke Forest. 2- hour moderate morning hike on a broad, relatively flat trail in Duke Forest. We'll stop at least once to cool our feet in New Hope Creek. Directions: from 15-501 I-40 exit bear left toward Chapel Hill, then make a right turn onto Erwin Road. Drive to Whitfield Road and make a left.. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at first trailhead on right on Whitfield. For more information, contact Eric Block (OCG) at 919-489-4255.

MAY 23-26 (Memorial day weekend)- Ramsey's Draft Wilderness in the George Washington National forest in northern Virginia. Three-day backpack (moderate to strenuous) in the largest tract of virgin forest left in the eastern US. Drive up Friday, return Monday. Maximum group size is 10. \$10 refundable deposit required. Call Chris or Odile Gould (OCG) at 919-493-1194, or e-mail chris_gould@mindspring.com.

JUN 7 (Sat.) Eno River Service Outing. Celebrate National Trails Day by helping maintain and improve a state park. This service outing will probably work with rangers at Eno River State Park. Contact Matt Brown (OCG) before 8:00 p.m. at 919-732-0855 or e-mail matt.brown@mail.com.

JUN 14-15 CAPE FEAR RIVER. Experience a few white water thrills on this river located on the edges of the Piedmont & Coastal Plain. It will be an easy trip despite the rocks; the approximate distance will be only 16 miles. We will camp on Saturday night at Raven Rock State Park. No pets or children under age 13. Leader reserves the right to change paddling location if weather and/or water level dictate. 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.

Non Sierra Sponsored Events

May 10 (1-4 pm) Haw River Festival Finale

Each Spring, since 1990, the Haw River Assembly has sponsored the Festival, an environmental, cultural, and natural history education event attended by fourth .

The Festival opens its program to the public along the banks of the Haw River in Bynum. Enjoy music, "art on the hill, education activities, and food!

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



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