

Orange- Chatham Group

www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg

National Threat

There have been many internal emails and even national press stories regarding the current effort of a few radical groups to take over the National Sierra Club Board to control its 65 million dollar budget and agenda. Please take time to familiarize yourself with this issue and, most importantly, **vote in this year's National Board of Directors election!**

FEB 2004



OCG Recognizes Dick Udry - "Legendary Hike Leader"

The Joseph LeConte Award, the highest Sierra Club honor the N.C. Chapter can offer, was given this year to J. Richard Udry, an OCG member and legendary hike leader.

Udry, known to his friends as "Dick," started leading hikes for our group 20 years ago and never tired of introducing new hikers to the southeastern wilderness. By the time he led his last hike in November 2002, he had led a total of 200 outings and introduced an estimated 2000 participants to the backcountry areas of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Mild mannered yet firm, Dick was known for his dry wit and for the lively discussions that he generated around the campfire. Many of the Triangle hike leaders who are active in the program today found inspiration in following Dick from one novel campsite to another.

Dick's trips went forward rain or shine. It was not unusual for an Udry group to pitch their tents in mud or snow, but good humor and a spirit of fellowship invariably overcame any feeling of hardship. Participants still recall with gratitude how he taught them to backpack or steered them toward places they would not otherwise have visited.

Helene Baumann, an OCG hike leader and member of the National Outings Committee, still cherishes memories of trips she took with Dick in the 1980's and 1990's. "He introduced me to trails, mountain tops and natural areas all over the Southeast, which I would never have known about. Most notably among them is the Foothills Trail, some 80 miles long, which winds its way from Table Rock State Park in South Carolina across the Blue Ridge Escarpment paralleling the NC/SC border, along Lake Jocassee including crossing wonderful river gorges ...After Dick introduced us to the area, I led a couple of weeklong national Sierra Club trips along the trail. These trips included participants from all over the country."

The award to Dick was presented by Wes Wallace, another OCG member who is state outings chair. Wallace praised his fellow Chapel Hill resident for following the John Muir tradition of creating environmental appreciation by giving people firsthand contact with wilderness. He noted that many Sierra Club members have become activists through the Club's outings programs.

As for Dick himself, he says now that he had no intention of becoming a legend when he started leading those hikes 20 years ago. "There were places I wanted to visit," he says, "and I was looking for people with similar interests to go with me. I've enjoyed every trip."

OCG Meetings

No February General Meeting

There will not be a General Meeting in February. We plan to resume regular meetings in March.

For some time, attendance at our monthly General Meeting has been conspicuously low. Driven by our enthusiastic Membership Chair, Kristen Kamerath, Excom has had several discussions on the subject.

After some deliberation, we've decided to change both our meeting place and meeting time. OCG has been meeting in the Fellowship room at the Church of Reconciliation for many years. We were forced to relocate there due to the large attendance at our meetings.

Now, we need to locate a smaller space. It is our feelings that this is both a wise use of limited resources, and also will create a better social environment.

Please watch for further announcements. We will try to get the March newsletter out early to provide notification on the meeting. Also, please check our web site at www.sierraclub-nc.org/ocg for more up-to-date details.

We hope to see lots of you at our new meeting place in March!

Wednesday, February 4th, 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.

OCG Contacts

Excom members denoted by year term expires.

Robert Porter	Chair	929-6983
robertporter@mindspring.com		2003
Bill Bracey		967-4116
arbornet@mindspring.com		2004
Joyce Brown		929-7781
joycebrown@mindspring.com		2004
Bernadette Pelissier	Political	643-2762
bpelissier@juno.com		
Greg Gangi		932-7340
ggangi@mindspring.com		
Annette Jurgelski	Outings	644-0280
jurge001@mc.duke.edu		2003
Kristen Kamerath	Membership	932-3127
kamerath@bellsouth.net		2004
Mary MacDowell		968-9184
macdowell@poetworld.net		2004
Norman Miller	Conservation	
nmiller285@aol.com		2003
Andrea Rohrbacher	Treasurer	
Peter Todd	Media	942-2581
petertodd@bellsouth.net		2003

Announcements

Students from UNC, Duke, and NCSU are planning a **Southeast Student Renewable Energy Conference**, to unite and energize the clean energy movement in the Southeast, that will be at UNC April 2-4. Go to: <http://energy.unc.edu> for more info.

The Sierra Club's **Sustainable Consumption Committee** has created a newsletters and website www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption. The goal of the committee is to educate the public about the impact of over-consumption and to offer practical alternatives that can be applied at home, business and school.

The OCG wishes to thank Vann Bennett for his service as Program Chair over the last few years. Vann did a wonderful job but has decided to direct his energy at the State Sierra Club, where we wish him the good luck.

Outings

All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the liability waiver before you chose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.

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. This is a long-term project, and we need many more volunteers. It's hard work, but very rewarding.

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. 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. For more info contact Thad Howard (HWG) at 919-544-9126 or e-mail thad.howard@duke.edu.

FEB 7 (Sat) Duke Forest. 2-hour moderate hike at Duke Forest. Contact Garry Post (HWG) at 919-490-

7905 or garrypost@hotmail.com.

FEB 8 (Sun) Eno River State Park. Easy to moderate 6-mile afternoon hike along all trails in Cole Mill Access Area (off Old Cole Mill Rd, not the area at the end of Cole Mill Rd!). No need to register; just park in last lot in time to sign in by 1:20. For more details, contact Peter or Isabel Calingaert (OCG): pc@cs.unc.edu (or 919-933-5489 before 9 p.m.).

FEB 28 (Sat) Eno River State Park. Moderate day hike, about five miles. Contact Margaret Anderson (OCG) at 919-493-0397 or andcamlib@hotmail.com.
MAR 13-14 Women's Backpack in the Birkhead Mountains Wilderness. The Birkhead Wilderness, located in the northern section of the Uwharrie National Forest, is a wonderful place for a weekend backpack that is close to the Triangle. We'll backpack a moderate 13-mile loop, covering about half the distance on Saturday and half on Sunday. Although the mileage may seem long, the trails are friendly and generally gentle. Limited to 6.

Contact Shelly Eberly (OCG) at 919-967-7358 between 7 and 9 p.m. or e-mail seberly@earthlink.net.

MAR 14 (Sun) Falls Lake. Moderate hike at Falls Lake, about six miles. Contact Margaret Anderson at 919-493-0397 or andcamlib@hotmail.com.

APR 9-11 High Rocks. High Rocks to Indian Grave Gap, northbound on the Appalachian Trail passing nearby Erwin, TN. Easy to moderate 18.4 mile backpack along the NC-TN ridgeline border at elevations between 2,000 and 3,500 feet. This is a horticulturally diverse elevation zone from early to mid-spring, and is seldom traversed by anyone other than AT thru-hikers. Limit of eight, \$10 refundable deposit required by March 31. If spring solitude and beautiful scenery appeals to you, call Chris David (CG) at 919-676-8927 or e-mail at gardenrefinery@earthlink.net.

APR 16-18 Cranberry Wilderness. Backpack in the Cranberry Wilderness of West Virginia. This area has an amazing variety of ecosystems: moss-carpeted dark forests, classic rhododendron-covered streams, and arid ridge tops. We'll backpack 20-25 miles through this wonderland. Moderate to strenuous; limited to 6. Contact Shelly Eberly (OCG) at 919-967-7358 between 7 and 9 p.m. or e-mail seberly@earthlink.net.

Sierra Seniors Outings

MAR 13 (Sat) Hemlock Bluffs. At 10 a.m. Hike at Hemlock Bluffs in Cary. Short and easy trails with some hilly terrain. Beautiful overlooks to take in the wondrous views. We will probably plan on lunch at nearby Whole Foods store. Call Lew Herr at 870 6964 or e mail at HerrL@Mindspring.com.

APR 17 (Sat) Umstead Park. At 10 a.m. About 2 to 3 miles of trailing on the Sycamore trail in Umstead Park. Use rt. 70 side entrance to the park. We will meet at the second parking lot. Call for further info. Lew Herr at 870 6964 or HerrL@mindspring.com.

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



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