

Orange-Chatham Group Sierra Club

<http://nc.sierraclub.org/ocg/>

P.O. Box 1303, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to Ana Hacic-Vlahovic, our new membership chair, and Catherine King, who will serve on the membership committee and also be our hospitality chair. Both Ana and Catherine are helping organize volunteers to staff our Sierra Club booths at upcoming street fairs. If you can donate one or two hours of your time to help your Sierra Club Group on Sunday, October 2nd (1 to 5 p.m.) or Saturday, October 29, please contact Ana at anahacic@email.unc.edu.

— Bernadette Pelissier

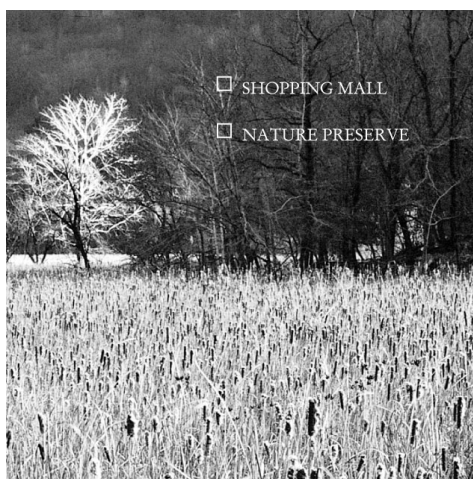


Do you know someone who works hard for the environment? Nominate them for a Sierra Club award! Contact our group chair by phone or email (see contact information on reverse) and explain what the person has done to help improve our environment.

News from our conservation committee:

Chatham County:

In concert with local environmental groups, the newly reconstituted Conservation Committee has supported an amendment that would strengthen the Watershed Protection Ordinance of Chatham County and is now responding to a proposal that would (as it were) water down the ordinance and pave the way for more development (perhaps including big box stores) in crucial areas that feed Jordan Lake. This is an important effort at a time when Jordan Lake, a source of drinking water, is already imperiled by an overload of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus.



Humans have a choice when it comes to protecting the land. Nature doesn't.



Join us!

Orange County:

Some proposals for connecting roads need addressing. Building the roads could harm water by increasing runoff but help air by decreasing emissions. How do convenience and the wishes of neighbors figure in? Maywood Rd., the Elizabeth Brady Road Extension, and other projects need discussing.

In Both Counties:

Construction is increasing sedimentation and turbidity in streams and state inspectors are not enforcing existing regulations. In addition, the committee is considering how to support the state Sierra Club's efforts to promote environmental legislation in the General Assembly.

So much environment, so little person power. If you want to get involved, call chair Judith Ferster at 929-6648 or email judith_ferster@ncsu.edu.

— Report by Judith Ferster



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

OCG Events:

September Group Social

Wednesday, September 14th, 6:00-9:30 p.m.

Earth Fare at Eastgate Shopping Center

Join new friends and old friends to discuss environmental issues, learn about Orange Chatham Sierra Club activities or simply socialize. We'll be meeting on the patio at the newly opened Earth Fare between 6:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. In the event of rain, we will meet in the community room. Earth Fare is located at Eastgate Shopping Center (1800 E. Franklin Street).

Carrboro Town Council Candidates' Forum

Monday, September 19th, 7:00 p.m.

Carrboro Town Hall

The forum, organized by the Orange-Chatham Group, will focus on local environmental issues. The forum will be broadcast on public access television.

Chapel Hill Town Council Candidates' Forum

Tuesday, September 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Chapel Hill Town Hall

Similar to the Carrboro event, but for Chapel Hill candidates. Broadcast live on public access television.

October Group Meeting

Wednesday, October 12th, 7:30 p.m.

Carrboro Century Center

Today's topic for discussion will be the NC Green Power program. We will have a short talk by a representative of the program followed by Q&A.

Executive Committee meetings:

Wed., Sept. 7th, 7-9 p.m. at Carolina Meadows

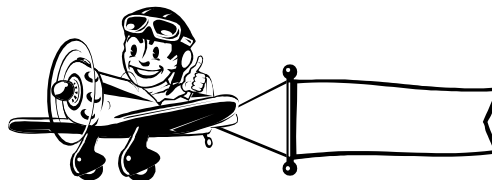
Wed., Sept. 28th, Location TBA (check website)

All group members are welcome to attend and provide suggestions for OCG projects.

Help wanted

We need volunteers for:

- Conservation committee (contact Judith Ferster)
- Outings leaders (contact Annette Jurgelski)
- Membership and hospitality committee (contact Ana Hacic-Vlahovic)
- Publicity and advertising (contact Lyndon Smith or Bernadette Pelissier)



Help us spread the word: we're looking for advertisers! We're planning to expand our newsletter to include more room for articles and advertisements. If you know of any Sierra-friendly organizations that might like to reach our audience of ~2500 environmentalists in Orange and Chatham counties, ask them to contact our Newsletter editor or Publicity director.



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.

Ongoing Service Outing:

3rd Saturdays on the Bolin Creek Trail: This is a long-term habitat restoration project, and we need many more volunteers. It's hard work, but very rewarding. We meet 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.

Current Outings:

SEP 10 (Sat) Hemlock Bluffs day hike (Cary). Enjoy the outdoors on this easy 2-mile hike. There are several sort trails offering views of the bluffs. Wooden stairs and observation platforms make for an easy hike with plenty of places to stop, look, and view. The Stevens Nature Center is also located on the grounds. We start at 11:00 am. Contact Mike DiAngelo (CG) at (919) 567-9276 for more information.

SEP 11 (Sun) Moderate hike at William B. Umstead State Park. 5.8 mile loop. We will meet at the Reedy Creek entrance (Exit 287 off I-40). Hiking boots or sturdy shoes and water required, and you are welcome to bring a picnic lunch. We will discuss keeping the wilderness wild. Limited to 15 participants. To sign up, contact Debbie Jacobowitz (HWG) at medwedeffes@aol.com or (919) 493-0780.

SEP 24 (Sat) Day hike at NC Museum of Art Park and Greenway Pedestrian Bridge to Meredith College. Enjoy the sights and sounds of an early autumn morning on this easy to moderate hike. A park guide will accompany us on part of the trail to discuss the art installations as well as the history and future plans for the park. Trip begins at 9:30 a.m. and will cover approximately 6 miles on mostly paved trails. Sturdy shoes required (no sandals or flip-flops). For more information, contact Ellen Barney (CG) at ellen_barney@yahoo.com or (919) 696-1564.

SEP 30-OCT 2 Mt. Rogers Backpack. Enjoy 3 days of backpacking in the rugged and scenic Mt. Rogers area of Virginia, which boasts the highest elevation in VA (5,729') and is the only place in VA that preserves evidence of ancient glaciation. Flora and fauna include hawks, falcons, songbirds, deer, flame azalea, rhododendron, mountain laurel, Fraser Fir and Red Spruce. We may even see the wild Virginia Highlands horses that graze on the balds. Moderate to strenuous; total mileage approximately 15 miles. Limited to 6. Contact Christian Stalberg (HWG) at cstalberg@ecoaccess.org or 919-801-0734.

OCT 1 (Sat) Easy 3-mile urban hike jointly hosted with the Triangle Transit Authority. Local history buff John Schelp and a TTA guide will lead us along a segment of the route planned for the regional rail service that will go into service in 2008. On the way, we'll visit several landmarks from Durham's past, among them the

city's original railroad station and the home place of Durham's namesake. Complete loop by foot or return via DATA bus. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in front of George's Garage at 737 Ninth Street. Ample parking is available on the street and in nearby lots. (please avoid using George's Garage limited parking spaces). For additional information, contact Annette Jurgelski (OCG) at 919-644-0280 or John Flavin (CG) at 919-790-1594.

OCT 9 (Sun) 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Weymouth Woods (Sandhills Nature Preserve). Come for a moderate day hike to the Sandhills Nature Preserve, about 1 hour from Raleigh. We'll hike for about 2 1/2 hours (5 miles). We'll hike on sandy terrain and hopefully see some red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species nesting in the park's longleaf pine trees. Those who wish to form carpools can meet at 10 a.m. in Cary. Bring good footwear (hiking boots preferably), food and water for the hike. Limit 12. Contact Dave Strausfeld (HWG) at davestr@oco.net or (919) 401-0508 for additional information or to sign up.

OCT 15 (Sat) Flatwater Kayak Expedition to view wildlife. Destination to be determined. Contact Susanne Gomolski (OCG) at (919) 929-3805.

OCT 16 (Sun) Very easy, moderately paced afternoon hike on a paved section of the Chapel Hill Greenway. Suitable for slow walkers and wheelchairs. We'll meet at 2:30 p.m. in front of the Flying Burrito Mexican Restaurant (746 Airport Road in shopping center at corner of Airport Rd. and Hillsborough St.) For more information, contact Annette Jurgelski (OCG) at 919-644-0280.

OCT 23 (Sun) Enjoy a Fall Hike at Hanging Rock State Park. About 8 miles; moderate. Contact Margaret Anderson (HWG) at andcamlib@hotmail.com or 919-493-0397.

OCT 28-30 Fall backpack in the Smokies. Catch the end of the peak autumn colors on this 3-day outing in the Great Smoky Mountains. We will backpack in 5 miles on Friday, day hike a long loop on Saturday to admire the colors from ridges and river valleys, and then retrace our backpacking steps on Sunday. Rated between moderate and strenuous due to mileage (total approximately 20 miles) and elevation change. Limited to 6. Contact Shelly Eberly (OCG) preferably at seberly@earthlink.net or 919-967-7358 between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. only.

2005 Orange-Chatham Group Executive Committee:

Chair+ **Bernadette Polissier** bpelissier@juno.com 643-2762
 Vice Chair & Programs+ **Don Eads** eadsd1@aol.com 837-5003
 Secretary+ **Marsha Stephens** stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu 732-4014
 Treasurer* **Andrea Rohrbacher** arohrbacher@earthlink.net 967-4213
 Conservation+ **Judith Ferster** judith_ferster@ncsu.edu 929-6648
 Newsletter Editor* **Kristen Dang** kamerath@bellsouth.net 932-3127

* = terms expire in 2005
 + = terms expire in 2006

Additional Orange-Chatham Group Leaders:

Outings **Annette Jurgelski** jurge001@mc.duke.edu 644-0280
 Political **Joe Capowski** capowski@email.unc.edu 929-1670
 Publicity **Lyndon Smith** lyndonsmith@hotmail.com
 Membership **Ana Hacic-Vlahovic** anahacic@email.unc.edu 360-8234
 Calendar Sales **Pam Hemminger** pamsh@earthlink.net 942-2273



P.O Box 1303
 Chapel Hill, NC 27514

U.S. Postage PAID
 Non-Profit Org.
 Chapel Hill, NC
 Permit No. 464