

Orange-Chatham Group Sierra Club

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

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



Mark your calendar...

Orange-Chatham Yard Sale Fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 16th

We will hold a yard sale from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the home of Loren Hintz, 804 Kings Mill Road in Chapel Hill. You may drop off your donations at Loren's house

one week before the yard sale. Housewares, electrical goods, garden equipment, books, and furniture in usable condition sell well and can help earn money for the club's activities and newsletter. Our yard sale is also a great way to meet other members. We need volunteers to help price items in the evening of September 15th and others to help organize and advertise the sale as well as staff the sale on September 16th. Call Loren Hintz to drop off items. Volunteers may contact Bernadette Pelissier.

Conservation committee campaign:

The True Cost of Food:

Thinking carefully about "The True Cost of Food" can lead to "Eating for a Healthy Planet," two Sierra Club campaigns driving the next Conservation Committee initiative. For instance, awareness of fossil fuels needed to grow conventional food and deliver it to supermarkets might lead us to eat organically and locally.

You're invited to discuss these issues at a potluck dinner on Tuesday October 17 at 7 p.m. at the Common House of Arcadia Cohousing Community : 134 Circadian Way Chapel Hill. Dr. Bill Dow will start us off by explaining his move from medicine to organic farming. Bring a dish as organic and locally grown as you can manage. Take Greensboro St. north from Main St. in Carrboro until it becomes Hillsborough Rd. Pass McDougal School on the left. Turn right onto Barrington Hills, which becomes Circadian Way; pass a sign for the Common House. Park at the end of the street in an unnumbered spot. Walk back to the Common House. Enter at the back.

News from our conservation committee:

Cleaning up Jordan Lake

On May 10, our group meeting brought together three experts on the state's efforts to clean up the nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake.

First, Elaine Chiosso, Executive Director of the Haw River Assembly, discussed factors that make the lake vulnerable to nutrient pollution, including point sources such as water treatment plants, and nonpoint sources such as runoff from developed land. Several plants are already being improved. Problems still to be addressed include old leaking pipes going into the plants, aging septic systems, and spray irrigation systems in new developments in Chatham County. The shape of the lake is another factor contributing to the shape it's in—of its two arms, the Haw River and the New Hope, the latter moves much more slowly. Not surprisingly, the recent fish kills were in that arm of the lake.

Next, Joe Rudek, senior scientist with Environmental Defense, explained how excess nutrients kill fish: Excess nutrients foster the growth of excess algae (some poisonous). As algae die, they sink to the bottom; as they rot, they consume oxygen, which can result in areas where oxygen levels are too low for many organisms to survive. Rudek then outlined a number of techniques that can slow



Orange-Chatham Group Leaders

Chair+ **Bernadette Pelissier** bpelissier@juno.com 643-2762
 Vice Chair & Energy Issues+ **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 Chair+ **Judith Ferster** judith_ferster@ncsu.edu 929-6648
 Transportation Issues* **Loren Hintz** lhintz@chccs.k12.nc.us 933-8987
 Fundraising* **Brian Rosa** brosanc@bellsouth.net 967-2698
 Hospitality **Catherine King** catherine.king@bcbsa.com 923-7372
 Membership **Ana Hacic-Vlahovic** anahacic@email.unc.edu 360-8234
 Newsletter **Kristen Dang** kamerath@bellsouth.net 932-3127
 Outings **Annette Jurgelski** jurge001@mc.duke.edu 644-0280
 Political **Tom Jensen** tjensen@email.unc.edu 260-2990

* = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2007)

+ = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2006)



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OCG Events:

Aug. 9th (Wed.) — Film and Discussion
7:30 p.m., Carrboro Century Center

Join us for a viewing of "Kilowatt Hours: A Plan to Re-Energize America", an award-winning film by Jeff Barrie. From the coal mines of West Virginia to the solar panel fields of Florida, Jeff Barrie highlights solutions to America's energy related problems. After the film we will have a group discussion on what people can do right now and in the future to save energy locally.

Sept. 13th (Wed.) — Membership Slide Show
7:30 p.m., Carrboro Century Center

Pick your favorite slides from any recent trip. We will provide a carousel projector and a CD presentation station. Pre-select and bring to the meeting a maximum of 20 slides for a 10 minute presentation. Time permitting, feel free to share information about conservation issues. Please contact Loren Hintz or Brian Rosa if you plan on showing slides.

Oct. 11th (Wed.) — Transportation Issues Forum
7:30 p.m., Carrboro Century Center

How we get to work, school and play determines global climate, our health and the structure of our communities. Several expert panelists will present their ideas about transportation with Loren Hintz, former Chair of the Chapel Hill Transportation Board, serving as moderator. The presentation will be followed by a discussion of how the Orange Chatham Sierra Club can implement the proposed solutions. We will also discuss transportation resolutions for the Executive Committee to consider adopting.

Conservation Committee Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Please join us if you want to get involved in our Jordan Lake campaign, the "True Cost of Food" campaign or have other project ideas. Contact Judith Ferster for location.

Executive Committee Meetings: Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3 at 7:00 p.m.: Want to get involved? Join the Executive Committee members in our discussion of issues and projects. The August 1st meeting will be held at 521 Greensboro Street (at the intersection with Merritt Mill Road). Use back entrance. Check our web site for September and October meeting locations or contact Bernadette Pelissier.

Volunteer opportunities

Festifall – Sunday, October 8th from 12:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tabling is interesting, rewarding and a fun opportunity to meet other members. Tabling means providing educational materials, membership forms, etc; and talking with people about environmental issues and about the Sierra Club. If you are new to tabling, we'll help you learn. For more information about helping, please contact Bernadette Pelissier.

Program Chair – We are looking for someone interested in working with the Executive Committee in identifying interesting speakers and topics for our monthly meetings. Contact Bernadette Pelissier.

Advertising Coordinator. The Orange Chatham Sierra Club Executive Committee would like to expand the newsletter to contain more information about local and states issues. To do so within our limited budget, we need to earn some advertising income. If you are interested in soliciting local advertisers please contact Bernadette Pelissier.



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:

SATURDAY A.M. HIKES: Aug. 5, 19, 26, Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 William B. Umstead State Park, Sycamore Trail. Moderate 7.2 mile hike at a steady pace. We will meet at the Crabtree Creek section off US 70 at 10 a.m. From the entrance, drive past the visitor center and proceed to the second parking lot. Please wear hiking boots and carry water; a picnic lunch is optional. Pre-registration is not required. In case of inclement weather or questions, contact Debbie Jacobowitz (HWG) at (919) 493-0780. For directions, see <http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/visit/wium/directions.html> or call (919) 571-4170.

SUNDAY A.M. HIKES: Aug. 6, 20, 27, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24 William B. Umstead State Park day hike. Moderate 5.9 mile hike at a steady pace. We will meet at the Reedy Creek section off I-40 (exit 287, turn left on Harrison into the parking lot) at 10 a.m. Please wear sturdy footwear and carry at least 16 oz. water; a picnic lunch is optional. Pre-registration is not required. In case of inclement weather or questions, contact Debbie Jacobowitz (HWG) at (919) 493-0780.

AUG 7: Sign-up deadline for Aug 19-20 Mt. Rogers trip

AUG 19-20: Mt. Rogers Blueberry Pancake...err...Backpack. Our trek will take us to the cool balds of the rooftop of Virginia. Learn the history of these high balds and why they now offer some of the best wild blueberries you can find. If the weather cooperates we might even get to see some leftovers from the annual Perseid meteor shower. Moderate backpack. Contact Steve Lund (CG) at (919) 481-1300.

AUG 19 (Sat): Kayak on beautiful but environmentally threatened Jordan Lake. As we look for wildlife, we'll discuss why the lake is presently polluted and what the Sierra Club is doing to promote public awareness and legislative action on this problem. Participation limited, so call early. Contact Gregg Weiner (OCG) at 919-929-6351, evenings only.

SEPT 1-4 (Fri.-Mon.): Slickrock Wilderness Backpack. Spend a long weekend hiking in the midst of virgin stands of giant hemlocks and poplars, playing in streams and waterfalls, and gazing for miles from high overlooks. We'll cover 30-35 miles of rough terrain, about half with backpacks and half with daypacks. Limited to 6. Rated strenuous. Contact Shelly Eberly (OCG) at seberly@earthlink.net or 919-967-7358 between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. only.

SEPT 23: Easy kid-friendly hike at the N.C. Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill. We'll walk the 1-mile nature trail and then follow the board walk to explore the 4 climate areas of North Carolina. Plenty of breaks to visit the Paul Green cabin and push around the giant chess pieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bring a snack but please leave pets at home. Contact Matt Brown (OCG) at 919-732-0855 before 9:00 p.m. or e-mail matt.brown@mail.com.

Sept 28 (Thurs.): Evening hike beginning at 5 p.m. Easy 4 miles on the ATT at Scott King Road. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcomed. For more info. contact Janet Hitti (HWG) 919-572-2407 or e-mail janet.hitti@verizon.net.

SEPT 30 (Sat): 9 a.m. 7 miles on the American Tobacco Trail in Wake County. Rated moderate due to length. No elevation change on this hike. Hiking boots, water and lunch required. Well-behaved dogs welcomed. Contact Janet Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or janet.hitti@verizon.net.

OCT 14 (Sat): Moderate hike on the Campbell Creek Trail in Raven Rock State Park. Begins at 11:00 a.m. and will probably include a lunch break. Contact Mike DiAngelo (CG) at 919-567-9276 or e-mail mdiangelo@nc.rr.com.

OCT 28 (Sat): Enjoy fall colors in a hike of both loop trails at Little River Regional Park in Durham. Start the long loop at 10:00 a.m., break for lunch, and then do the short loop. Moderate hike with total of 7 miles. Dogs on leash welcome. Contact Marcia Eickmeier (HWG) at 919-644-1806 before 9:00 p.m.

Cleaning up Jordan Lake continued...

runoff from developed land, thus allowing more nutrients to be absorbed before the water drains into sewers, streams, and, ultimately, the lake. These include riparian (vegetative) buffers for streams and rivers, swales, rain gardens, and porous pavements.

Amy Pickle, attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, detailed the legal framework for the new rules being written by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission. When a lake is considered impaired, the federal government limits the nutrients an area can contribute. In 2003, the Division of Water Quality set targets for reduction: 35% N and 5% P for the Upper New Hope and 8% N and 5% P for the Haw arm. In 2003, the Jordan Lake stakeholders convened and the EMC began writing the new rules for inhabitants of the lake's watershed to achieve those reductions.

According to the most recent schedule, in the spring of 2007, there will be a public comment period on a draft of rules, with final approval by the state legislature in 2008. Among the methods for achieving the required reductions: Training for farmers and landscapers on the application of fertilizers, strengthened requirements for riparian (vegetative) buffers, other storm water structures for new developments, and retrofits for existing developments.

Armed with information like that offered by the panel, Sierra Club members will be ready to make public comments that could support efforts to clean up Jordan Lake.

— Report by Judith Ferster and May Becker



It is time for nominations for the Executive Committee. Four two-year positions expire in December. Ballots will be included in the November newsletter. For more details about the role of an Executive Committee member, contact Marsha Stephens, Chair of the Nominating Committee.



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