

Orange-Chatham Group

Sierra Club

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

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

Notes from the Chair

We are taking a summer break from monthly meetings in July and August. We plan to sponsor different types of groups meetings and hope to collaborate more with other organizations. We welcome any suggestions you may have.

Because our newsletter is issued 5 to 6 times per year, we cannot always provide timely announcements of our meetings and other important events in our newsletter. Therefore, we encourage you to sign onto our listserve. This listserve is intended primarily for announcements of Sierra Club meetings and issues and is not a discussion group, so the number of emails is limited. Please sign up at <http://nc.sierraclub.org/ocg/>. In addition, I want to let you know that Sierra Club outings throughout the Triangle will be updated on our website on a monthly basis. If you cannot attend a meeting but are interested in hearing it, go to the podcast site <http://H2Opodcast.com> that Joseph Puentes has so kindly set up for recording our meetings.

— Bernadette Pelissier

Conservation committee report: Jordan Lake Rules

As you know from previous meetings and newsletters, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission has been working on new rules to reduce the nutrient pollution (particularly nitrogen and phosphorus) flowing into Jordan Lake. This will involve renovating wastewater treatment plants, changing the way farmers and homeowners apply fertilizer, and changing how storm water is treated before it is channeled into streams, the Haw River, and the lake itself.

Before the new rules are implemented, there will be a public comment period. Dates are not available but the public hearings are expected to take place this summer, no earlier than July. Members of the Orange/Chatham group who expressed interest at our earlier meetings will write letters and speak to support these measures to clean up the lake. If you wish to attend the public hearing, you will be provided with the necessary talking points.

If you're willing to contact members by phone or email to help inform them, please contact Conservation Chair Judith Ferster at 929-6648 or judith_ferster@ncsu.edu.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Executive Committee member: We are looking for someone to join us in planning the direction of our group and conducting business to fill a vacancy through December 2007.

Publicity: Submitting announcements of our meetings to the media is a great opportunity for someone who doesn't have the time to go to meetings.

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or want to know about other volunteer possibilities, please contact Bernadette Pelissier.

Orange-Chatham Group Leaders

Chair+ **Bernadette Pelissier** bpelissier@juno.com 643-2762
 Treasurer* **Andrea Rohrbacher** arohrbacher@earthlink.net 967-4213
 Conservation+ **Judith Ferster** judith_ferster@ncsu.edu 929-6648
 Political & Transportation* **Loren Hintz** lhintz@chccs.k12.nc.us 933-8987
 Calendar Sales **Pam Hemminger** pheeminger@bellsouth.net 942-2273
 Secretary+ **Maureen Hayes** mchayes720@earthlink.net 933-3140
 Newsletter/Web **Kristen Dang** kristen.dang@gmail.com 932-3127
 Listserv **Marsha Stephens** stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu 732-4014
 Outings **Annette Jurgelski** jurge001@mc.duke.edu 644-0280
Dave Keesee+ dskeese@bellsouth.net 933-4879
 Executive Committee vacancy*

* = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2007)

+ = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2008)



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Group Events:

June 10 (Sun.), 1-4 p.m., Cane Creek Reservoir "Eat Local Triangle" summer picnic

Hwy 54 west of Carrboro/Chapel Hill. Canoes will be available for a small fee. Bring a dish to share with other using local products. Beverages, plates and utensils provided.

Come celebrate the Sierra Club event in honor of Eat Local Triangle Month of which the Orange Chatham Sierra Club is proud to be a cosponsor. The month-long set of events in June are intended to raise awareness among Triangle consumers about the connection of local foods and farms to health, local economies, environment and land preservation. Eat Local Triangle activities are designed to promote the abundance of delicious, seasonally-available foods in the Triangle, to highlight opportunities for consumers, restaurants and retailers to support and connect with a growing number of area farmers, and to help strengthen local communities. The intent is to start a conversation about the real cost of food and engage consumers in a deeper understanding of their food choices. Throughout June, consider ways that you can challenge yourself to eat more locally. Share a meal with neighbors or friends with ingredients that are all sourced locally, educate yourself and others about a new local food producer, take time to read the location of origin of the foods in your pantry and in the grocery store, and talk to a local farmer at the farmers' market about why you value their work to help you meet your goals of eating as locally as possible. Visit www.eatlocaltriangle.org to take the Individual Challenge, participate in the interactive blog, and learn about regional events and participating restaurants/markets.

No monthly meeting in July or August.

ADVANCE NOTICE of upcoming Fall candidate forums:

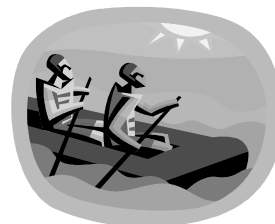
In place of monthly group meetings, this Fall the Sierra Club will host a series of candidate forums for Carrboro Board of Aldermen, Chapel Hill Town Council, and Hillsborough Town Board. Watch our newsletter and website for more details.

Festival for the Eno

July 4, 7 & 8

celebrates the environment

with music, crafts, exhibits, food & fun.



West Point on the Eno Park
Roxboro Road, Durham

<http://www.enoriver.org/festival/>



Outings

Sierra Club outings are open to all. Outings are educational unless designated as a social (S). 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:

William B. Umstead Park Saturday and Sunday morning hikes. Pre-registration for either Saturday and Sunday hikes 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.

Saturday hike description: 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.

Sunday hike description: 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.

JUN 1-3 Mt. Rogers Backpack, Creek to Creek across the Top of Virginia. Come join us for a 3-day backpacking trip to the highest place in Virginia! We will explore the Big Wilson Creek drainage

and work our way over to Cabin Creek and back. After reaching camp each day we hope to scramble up to the ridgeline to explore and catch the sunsets. Most of this trip will be on well traveled trails and will include some easy off-trail sections as well. Meet in Chapel Hill early Friday morning or at the backpack parking lot in Grayson Highlands State Park; we'll return Sunday evening. Moderate rating; limit of 6 participants; \$25 refundable deposit and pre-approval by leaders required. To register, contact trip leader Chris Plummer cplummer@nc.rr.com or (919) 368-6015 or co-leader Chris Moses at Chrismoses@hotmail.com.

JUN 2,9,16,23,30 (Sat.) William B. Umstead State Park Saturday a.m. hikes. See description and contact information above.

JUN 3,10,17,24 (Sun.) William B. Umstead State Park Sunday a.m. hikes. See description and contact information above.

JUN 3 (Sun.) Occoneechee Mt State Park. We will be hiking about all of the trails in the park. Easy to moderate. Contact Margaret Anderson (OCG) at 919-493-0397 or andcamlib@hotmail.com

JUN 28-JUL 4 Backpack of the AT through the Great Smokies. We start from Fontana Dam and will do the 67 miles to Davenport Gap. Equates to about 10.3 miles per day. Rated strenuous, limit of four, refundable deposit required and trip will not be cancelled. Contact: Chris David (CG) at chrisdavid@bellsouth.net or 919-676-8927.

JUL 7,14,21,28 (Sat.) William B. Umstead State Park Saturday a.m. hikes. See description and contact information above.

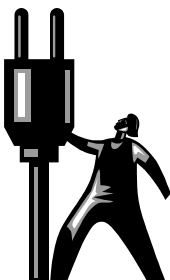
JUL 1,8,15,22,29 (Sun.) William B. Umstead State Park Sunday a.m. hikes. See description and contact information above.

JUL 21 (Sat.) 10 a.m. hike at the Eno River State Park. Short 2-mile hike under shady trees. Then cool off by wading in the Eno River at Few's Ford. Contact Marcia Eickmeier (OCG) at 919-644-1806 before 9 p.m. to register.

Watch for additional outings listings on our website.

Environmental legislation in the NC General Assembly

At our May 9th meeting, Christa Wagner, Legislative Affairs Coordinator for the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, provided us with an update on pending environmental legislation in North Carolina. Among the pending bills, Christa talked about the Renewable Energy Portfolio which is in line with the NC Sierra Club Chapter priority on energy issues. The House version of this bill would require 20 percent of the state's electrical generation to be supplied by clean, renewable sources. We will need your help to encourage support for this important bill. You can stay up to date on this bill and others with our bill tracker: <http://northcarolina.sierraclub.org/tracker/index.html>. Christa Wagner also invites any of us to join her in meeting with legislators on Monday evenings. Contact her at christa.wagner@sierraclub-nc.org if you are interested.



Blogs & Podcasts

Some new options are available for you to keep up with what's going on with the Sierra Club in North Carolina:

For recent news, issues, outings reports, talks, thoughts, etc., see the NC blog, which is updated frequently: <http://sierraclubnc.blogspot.com/>. Please feel free to add your comments!

If you can't attend our monthly meetings, you can now listen to the podcasts from the comfort of wherever your computer/iPod is. To listen (a free service), see <http://h2opodcast.com/earth.html>.



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