

# Orange-Chatham Group Sierra Club

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

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

## Notes from the Chair

With the increasing cost of printing and mailing our newsletter, we are finding the need to cut back on the number of issues. This issue is for three months rather than the usual two months. Eventually we hope to issue most of our information through e-mail (printed copies will always be available to those who do not use the internet). In the meantime, I encourage all of you to sign up for our listserv to get reminders of upcoming Orange-Chatham Group meetings and special events. This listserv has a limited number of messages each month and will not fill in your inbox. Please sign up via our website.

— Bernadette Pelissier

## Conservation committee report: Leftovers' Next Life

Want to know how eating your veggies can help the environment? Check our website for the latest report from our conservation committee.

## Fundraising

Support the NC Chapter 2007 March Appeal: Soon you will be receiving a solicitation in the mail from the Sierra Club's North Carolina Chapter asking you to donate money.

How is this request for money different from others that you receive from Sierra Club? This solicitation is coming from the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club, and 100% of your donation goes to work right here in North Carolina. This is the one time each year that the NC Chapter gets to raise core funding from its entire membership.

How will these funds be used? The NC Chapter supports five professional staff members who spend their time working with chapter volunteers on such projects as convincing city and county governments to buy hybrid cars or protecting our drinking water resources from pollution, or promoting energy efficiency policies at the North Carolina legislature.

Why are funds needed? Less than 20% of the Chapter's funds come from your annual dues. So donations we receive from members like you and me support the NC Chapter's work lobbying in our state legislature to pass bills that help improve North Carolina's environment.

Please make your checks payable to: NC Chapter of the Sierra Club and mail them to:  
112 S. Blount Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

If you prefer credit or debit card donations can now be made by visiting [www.nc.sierraclub.org](http://www.nc.sierraclub.org). Contributions and gifts to the Sierra Club are not tax-deductible as they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts.



## Volunteer Opportunities:

This fall there will be elections for Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Hillsborough. Individuals interested in serving on the Political Committee which makes endorsement recommendations should contact Loren Hintz. Anna Hacic-Vlahovic, will be graduating in May and we will be looking for a new Membership Chair. If you are interested in this position or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Bernadette Pelissier.

## Orange-Chatham Group Leaders

Chair+ **Bernadette Pelissier** [bpelissier@juno.com](mailto:bpelissier@juno.com) 643-2762  
Treasurer\* **Andrea Rohrbacher** [arohrbacher@earthlink.net](mailto:arohrbacher@earthlink.net) 967-4213  
Conservation+ **Judith Ferster** [judith\\_ferster@ncsu.edu](mailto:judith_ferster@ncsu.edu) 929-6648  
Political & Transportation\* **Loren Hintz** [lhintz@chccs.k12.nc.us](mailto:lhintz@chccs.k12.nc.us) 933-8987  
Membership **Ana Hacic-Vlahovic** [anahacic@email.unc.edu](mailto:anahacic@email.unc.edu) 360-8234  
Calendar Sales **Pam Hemminger** [pemminger@bellsouth.net](mailto:pemminger@bellsouth.net) 942-2273  
Secretary+ **Maureen Hayes** [mchayes720@earthlink.net](mailto:mchayes720@earthlink.net) 933-3140  
Newsletter/Web **Kristen Dang** [kristen.dang@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.dang@gmail.com) 932-3127  
Listserv **Marsha Stephens** [stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu) 732-4014  
Outings **Annette Jurgelski** [jurge001@mc.duke.edu](mailto:jurge001@mc.duke.edu) 644-0280  
Publicity\* **Brian Rosa** [brosanc@bellsouth.net](mailto:brosanc@bellsouth.net) 967-2698  
**Dave Keesee**+ [dkeesee@bellsouth.net](mailto:dkeesee@bellsouth.net) 933-4879

\* = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2007)  
+ = Executive Committee Member (term expires in 2008)



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## Group Events:

*\*Note change in location and time*

**March 14 (Wed.), 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Public Library**  
"The Piedmont Biofuels Story"

Presentation by Lyle Estill, Vice President of Piedmont Biofuels, which is America's largest biodiesel coop. As fuel makers they have journeyed from the backyard, making fuel in a 55 gallon drum, to the boardroom, operating one of North Carolina's first commercial biodiesel facilities. They currently perform a vast amount of education and outreach, offer design-build and consulting services and work on energy policy for North Carolina.

**April 11 (Wed.), 7:30 p.m., Carrboro Century Center**  
"Global Warming, the Media, and the 110th U.S. Congress"

Robbie Cox, past president of the national Sierra Club, is a UNC Professor of Communication who studies how public conversation about the environment affects public policy. He is also an avid outdoorsman who treks and climbs mountains in Asia and Africa. He'll bring together his research, his love of nature, and his experience as a national environmental leader in his talk on the national conversation about the climate. Come hear his ideas about the relationship between what we say about the environment and what we do.

**May 9 (Wed.), 7:30 p.m., Carrboro Century Center**  
"Upcoming Environmental Legislation in North Carolina"

Christa Wagner, the Director of Government Relations for the NC Sierra Club Chapter, will discuss opportunities and prospects for the passage of environmentally friendly legislation.

**Conservation Committee Meetings:** Do you want to help plan our "True Cost of Food" or Jordan Lake protection campaigns? Contact Judith Ferster for meeting location and dates.

**Executive Committee Meetings: March 6, April 3, May 1, 7:00 p.m.:** Want to get involved? Join the Executive Committee members in our discussion of issues and projects. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Check our web site or contact Bernadette Pelissier for meeting locations.

## NC Chapter Event:

*May 11-13, Columbia, North Carolina*

Mark your calendars! Sierra Fest, the NC Chapter Annual Conference, will take place at the Eastern 4-H Environmental and Education Conference Center in Columbia, NC. The theme of the conference will be "Living Green". Join fellow Sierrans for a fun-filled weekend of workshops and outings in Northeastern North Carolina.

Workshops will focus on various "Living Green" topics such as sustainable/locally grown food and other purchasing choices as well as energy use in new and old homes. Our keynote speakers will be Sally and Sara Kneidel, co-authors of the book Veggie Revolution: Smart Choices for a Healthy Body and a Healthy Planet. Lisa Renstom, Sierra Club President will provide an update on national issues.

Details and registration forms will be available at <http://www.nc.sierraclub.org/highlights/sierrafest2007.html>.



## 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](mailto: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.

**MAR 10 (Sat)** Hike 2-3-mile loop trail north of Durham on the Flat River. Start in morning and bring lunch to eat midway. Contact Marcia Eickmeier (HWG) at 919-644-1806 or e-mail [marcialarry@mindspring.com](mailto:marcialarry@mindspring.com)

**MAR 3,10,17,24,31 (Sat)** William B. Umstead State Park Saturday a.m.hikes.

**MAR 4,11,18,25 (Sun)** William B. Umstead State Park Sunday a.m.hikes.

**MAR 25 (Sun)** Chapel Hill day hike. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at parking lot in Umstead Park off Airport Road in Chapel Hill (not the state park in Raleigh). Hike along Bolin Creek, connecting with the Greenway at MLK Blvd. Continue to Café Driad for tea/coffee/treats. Return to Umstead - about 3 miles round-trip. Level: easy. Please sign up in advance by e-mailing Donell Kerns (OCG) at [donellkerns@hotmail.com](mailto:donellkerns@hotmail.com). For questions, call 919-942-8483.

**MAR 31 (Sat)** 9 a.m. Urban hike starting a Oval Park (corner of West Club Blvd. and Oakland Ave.) this will be a 4 mile loop around Historic West Durham, with John Schlep, local history buff. No need to call-just show up at 9 a.m. Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome. Contact Janet Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or [janet.hitti@verizon.net](mailto:janet.hitti@verizon.net).

**APR 14 (Sat)** Hike little-known trails in Duke Woods near Chapel

Hill for 4 miles, 3 hours. Easy. From I-40 take exit #266 north (Hwy #86). Proceed 0.1 mile north toward Hillsborough. Turn right on Whitfield Road and go 2.6 miles to Duke Woods gate #25. Also, gate #25 is 0.9 mile from the intersection of Erwin Road and Whitfield Road. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at the gate. Optional lunch out after the hike. No reservations necessary; contact Eric Block (OCG) at (919) 489-4255 with questions.

**APR 21 (Sat)** Blackwater kayak paddle in Southeastern North Carolina (near Wilmington). Enjoy a scenic blackwater paddle on a remote creek that empties into the Northeast Cape Fear River. We will stop for lunch on an island where the creek and the river converge. Trip is approx. 3.5 - 4 hours in length. Space is limited. Limited number of kayaks available to lend. Trip to start at 11:30 AM. \$30 deposit required, which will be refunded if participant does not cancel. Please call Gregg Weiner (OCG) at 919-929-6351 evenings for more details and to sign up.

**APR 7,14,21,28 (Sat)** William B. Umstead State Park Saturday a.m.hikes.

**APR 1, 8,15,22,29 (Sun)** William B. Umstead State Park Sunday a.m.hikes.

**APR 28 (Sat)** Downtown Durham urban hike starting at 9 a.m. at the Stanford Warren Library on Fayetteville Street. Hayti walking tour about 3 miles. Andre Vann will be pointing out historical places and giving us a rich history of the area. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water. For more information contact Janet Hitti (HWG) at [janet.hitti@verizon.net](mailto:janet.hitti@verizon.net) or 919-572-2407.

**MAY 5,12,19,26 (Sat)** William B. Umstead State Park Saturday a.m.hikes.

**MAY 6,13,20,27 (Sun)** William B. Umstead State Park Sunday a.m.hikes.

**MAY 25-28 (Fri-Sun)** Base camp/day hike in Dolly Sods Wilderness, WVA. Marvel at the beauty of spring in Dolly Sods Wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest. Called "a bit of Canada in the South," this high, boggy plateau contains plants usually found much further north. Many open views in this unusual "boggy bowl" makes Dolly Sods "one of a kind" in North America. This trip is rated strenuous due to the many stream and river crossings and rugged, wilderness conditions. Participants must have adequate foot gear, confidence and appropriate skills. Two openings left out of eight total, refundable deposit required and carpooling encouraged. Contact: Chris David (CG): E-mail; [chris-david@bellsouth.net](mailto:chris-david@bellsouth.net) or call 919-676-8927.

## NC Chapter Blog Site

There is a new North Carolina Sierra Club blog-  
<http://sierraclubnc.blogspot.com/>

We hope it will provide a forum where folks can find out what is going on in the state, as well as what they can do about it. We encourage folks to comment, and also welcome relevant guest posts. If you're interested in writing one about an issue you think more people should know about or something going on locally that other activists could learn from, please feel free to submit something to me at [tjensen@sierraclub-nc.org](mailto:tjensen@sierraclub-nc.org). We hope this blog will help to become a hub for environmental activism in North Carolina.



P.O. Box 1303  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

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