

# Orange-Chatham Group Sierra Club

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

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

## Political Endorsements

Upon the recommendation of the OCG Political and Executive Committees, the North Carolina Chapter of the Sierra Club has endorsed the following candidates for elected office. The Sierra Club supports candidates with demonstrated knowledge of local environmental issues who will provide strong leadership on matters such as growth and conservation. We encourage Sierra Club members and any local residents who care about the environment to support these candidates in the upcoming election.

### Orange County Board of Commissioners

**District 1:** Valerie Foushee\*, Pam Hemminger\*

**At-large:** Bernadette Pelissier

*An outstanding environmental leader in Orange County.*



*Courtesy of Bernadette Pelissier.*

### Chatham County Board of Commissioners

The Chatham County endorsements have been delayed. Please check the Sierra Club web page and press releases for the final endorsements.



### North Carolina General Assembly

**Senate District 23:** Ellie Kinnaird  
*One of the best environmental voting records in the North Carolina legislature.*

**House District 54:** Joe Hackney\*

**House District 56:** Verla Insko\*

**House District 63:** Alice Bordsen\*

*Courtesy of Kinnaird for State Senate.*

### North Carolina Council of State

**Lieutenant Governor:** Dan Besse

**State Treasurer:** Janet Cowell

\*Note: The candidates marked with an asterisk do not face any opposition in their primaries and will not appear on the May 6 ballots.

## Announcement

The state Sierra Club chapter needs your donations of money. Make our NC Sierra Club lobbyist and state staff more effective by sending your checks to NC Sierra Club Chapter Treasurer, PO Box 27291; Raleigh, NC 27711.

Here's a great volunteer opportunity: The Orange/Chatham Group of the Sierra Club needs a list manager. This person must have basic computer skills and be able to log onto the Sierra Club Listserv to manage two lists, a small one for the Executive Committee, another larger one for the group as a whole. Currently, the software being used is



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## Group Events

### Sustainable Transportation: A Future Worth Creating

**Wednesday, May 14, 7-9 p.m.**

Central Carolina Community College, Pittsboro Campus, Building B, Multipurpose Room

Dave Erb is an automotive engineer who has designed electric and hybrid electric vehicles, as well as vehicles using gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, alcohol, and natural gas power trains. An active auto racer with engineering and business degrees, he will share his excellent information and experience, his deep commitment to the environment, and his understanding of its impact on social justice. Come and learn about the energy balance of all kinds of biofuels, some alternatives to biofuels, what fuels NASCAR, and more. Organic refreshments.

Co-sponsored by the Chatham Alliance for Sustainable Energy. For directions, see the Orange-Chatham Group website (see link at top left of page) or contact the Conservation Chair (see reverse).

### Community Book Forum

**Monday, June 2, 7-9 p.m.**

Carrboro Century Center,

Forum on *Not a Drop to Drink: America's Water Crisis (and What You Can Do)*, written by Ken Midkiff, former director of the Sierra Club's Clean Water Campaign. OCG co-chair Loren Hintz will be one of the discussion panelists. Please carpool or bike to the event!

### Picnic to Celebrate Summer!

**Saturday, June 7, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Umstead Park in Chapel Hill, at the shelter

Bring family, friends, food and frisbees. Contact Loren Hintz (see reverse) for more information.

### Executive Committee Meetings

**Second Monday of each month, 7-9 p.m.**

Carolina Meadows Activities Center

Meetings are held in the second-floor conference room. Contact Judith Ferster (see reverse) for more information.

## List Manager Needed for OCG

Listserv 15.5. Tasks include adding new members, deleting leaving members, and generally monitoring the list. Time required is variable, but averages no more than one hour per week. Contact Marsha Stephens, [stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu) or 919-618-2298. Join our team!



## 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. The difference is visible immediately, and the effect is long-lasting. 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

**MAY 3 (Sat)** Moderate hike suitable for families. Bring young mountaineers out for a ramble up Occoneechee Mountain in Hillsborough. Spectacular view of rural Orange County from the summit. Contact Matt Brown (OCG) at 919-732-0855 or e-mail [matt.brown@duke.edu](mailto:matt.brown@duke.edu)

**MAY 4 (Sun)** Falls Lake day hike. Hike a section of the Mts. to Sea Trail at Falls Lake. About six miles; moderate rating. Call Margaret Anderson (OCG) at 919-493-0397 or e-mail [andcamlib@hotmail.com](mailto:andcamlib@hotmail.com)

**MAY 17-24 (Sat-Sat)** 7-day backpack. Using the AT, Bartram, Old Road Gap, Fires Creek and Chunky Gal trails, we will depart from Wayah Bald and return there in one week. The Bartrams, John and William and Andre Michaux, spent many years in this very area, collecting, classifying and recording plant data. John Bartram once said, "This resplendent and extraordinary land of the Cherokee Nation is an un-paralleled, botanical paradise." We will hike it during the peak, best time in Spring. Due to 17-mile days, outing is rated strenuous and is limited to five people. It requires a \$50, refundable deposit. Contact Chris David (CG) at 919-673-1214 or [chrisdavid@bellsouth.net](mailto:chrisdavid@bellsouth.net)

**MAY 18 (Sun)** Kayak the backwater of beautiful, but environmentally threatened Jordan Lake. Wildlife that are often encountered in this area include, eagles, osprey, blue herons, beaver, and deer. Participants should bring bottled water, insect spray (if desired), a hat, sunglasses, sun lotion, water shoes (or old sneakers), and quick drying clothing. Boats, life jackets, & paddles are available to lend, but space is limited. Contact Gregg Weiner (OCG) at 919-929-6351 evenings.

**JUNE 5 (Thurs)** Unwind and get your late-day exercise with an easy 4-mile hike on the American Tobacco Trail. We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Scott King access convenient to RTP, Durham and I-40. Well-behaved dogs are welcome to tag along (on leash) and stretch all four legs. Contact Janet Hitti (HWG) at 919-572-2407 or [janet.hitti@verizon.net](mailto:janet.hitti@verizon.net)

Watch for additional outings listings on our website.

## SmartCommute Challenge 2008

This year we have a number of meetings on transportation and fuels—including the upcoming one on May 14 (see "Group Events" on reverse). Here is a chance to take action. Please sign on and share your experiences with Sierra Club members and other friends.

**What:** The Challenge is a pledge that you take to try a new way of getting where you need to go. You can choose to take the bus, the train, carpool, vanpool, bike, walk or telework instead of driving alone.

**When:** April 15 – May 30 You might even like your alternative commute so much that you do it for the rest of the year!

**Where:** Orange, Durham and Wake Counties

**Who:** Anyone who works or goes to college within Durham, Wake or Orange county may take the pledge.

**How:** Take the pledge online at [www.smartcommutechallenge.org](http://www.smartcommutechallenge.org)

**Why:** It can make a real difference. Last Challenge, 12,700 people participated and together we saved over 2.3 million commuting miles and 110,000 gallons of gas and reduced VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) pollutants by 3,280 kg and NOX (Nitrous Oxides) pollutants by 2,650 kg. That reduction in gas burned also resulted in 2,167,000 fewer pounds of CO2 pumped into our atmosphere. (Every gallon of gas burned creates 19.7 pounds of CO2.)

The Triangle ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for ozone-air pollution. A 2000 study found that 25% of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in Wake and Durham counties suffer from asthma or asthma-like symptoms.

Driving a car is expensive, and getting more expensive every day.

The 2008 US Gov't number for cost per mile is 50.5 cents. Even if that is a conservative number, multiply that times the miles you drive in your commute, then calculate the cost of alternative transportation. It always comes out to be a significant savings to your pocket-book.

The 2008 SmartCommute Challenge is sponsored by Triangle Transit (TTA) and SmartCommute@rtp. Anyone who takes the pledge is eligible to win prizes, including the Grand Prize: two airline tickets to anywhere in the continental U.S. and a week-long hotel stay in the destination city!

What are resources that can help me plan a different commute?

- Bus - <http://www.gotriangle.org/Bus/index.php>
- Vanpool - <http://www.gotriangle.org/Vanpool/index.html>
- Carpool - <http://www.sharetheridenc.org/>

Remember, take the pledge on or after April 15 for a greener, cleaner commute.

### Orange-Chatham Group Leaders

Executive Committee Members (year indicates end of two-year term)

Loren Hintz (2009) **Group Co-chair and Transportation Chair**  
[ldhintz@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldhintz@bellsouth.net) 933-8987

May Becker (2009) **Group Co-chair** [tomatocutter@yahoo.com](mailto:tomatocutter@yahoo.com) 969-7439

Dave Keesee (2008) **Treasurer** [dskeееее@bellsouth.net](mailto:dскеееее@bellsouth.net) 933-4879

Judith Ferster (2008) **Conservation Chair** [judith\\_ferster@ncsu.edu](mailto:judith_ferster@ncsu.edu)  
929-6648

Maureen Hayes (2008) **Secretary** [mchayes720@earthlink.net](mailto:mchayes720@earthlink.net) 933-3140

Matt Scheer (2008) [mws21575@yahoo.com](mailto:mws21575@yahoo.com) 370-4267

Jean Westbrook (2009) [jtwdrw@hotmail.com](mailto:jtwdrw@hotmail.com) 542-6212

#### Other Group Leaders

Jason Baker **Political Chair** [jason@jasonbaker.us](mailto:jason@jasonbaker.us) 338-1506

Pam Hemminger **Calendar Sales** [pheeminger@bellsouth.net](mailto:pheeminger@bellsouth.net) 942-2273

Max Felsher **Newsletter/Web** [max.felsher@gmail.com](mailto:max.felsher@gmail.com) 929-8937

Marsha Stephens **Listserv** [stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu](mailto:stephens@mail.fpg.unc.edu) 732-4014

Annette Jurgelski **Outings** [jurge00111@gmail.com](mailto:jurge00111@gmail.com) 644-0280

Jamie Bort **Membership** [jamiiebort@gmail.com](mailto:jamiiebort@gmail.com) 619-0199



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