



WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the

Western North Carolina Group of the Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Nov/Dec 2005

Wenoca Endorses Winning Candidates

Upcoming Programs

- **Holiday Party! Friday, December 9th 6:30 PM**
- Shipments of Nuclear Waste, Mary Olson Thursday, January 26th
- Hugh Irwin, "Paving over Paradise— the Pace of Road Development in the Southern Appalachian Region" Thursday, February 23

Meetings are at the Unitarian Church at the corner of Charlotte and Edwin, in Asheville
 Social Hour 7 PM
 Program 7:30 PM

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Terry Bellamy, Holly Jones, and Robin Cape
 Photo Composite by Carolyn MacGregor

Commentary by Susan Stewart WENOCA Political Chair

As a result of good voter turnout, spurred on by grassroots organizing, Terry Bellamy is the now the Mayor Elect of Asheville. She is the first African American woman to hold that position. She captured 57% of the vote. WENOCA'S other two endorsements were the high vote getters for Asheville City Council. Holly Jones, incumbent with 24% of the vote was followed by Robin Cape with 20%. Robin Cape won a write-in seat on the Woodfin Water board two years ago that saved the wa-

tershed from being logged. We are proud that WENOCA helped elect the three winners in this crucial election, moving Asheville toward a progressive City Council. As political chair I am committed to working closely with the winners in implementing sound environmental policies.

The Sierra Club held a press conference in Asheville on Wednesday, November 16, 11:30 AM, at the City/County Plaza as part of The Sierra

Grassroots politics is alive and well in Asheville!

Club's National "Cool Cities" Tour. Mayor Worley signed on to the Climate Protection Agreement this year, moving Asheville toward a new energy future. Mayor-elect Terry Bellamy, and City council winners Holly Jones and Robin Cape were present and supportive, making Asheville a "COOL CITY". (For more on the Cool Cities Tour, see Cool City article, Page 3.)

Wenoca Holiday Party



The Buckerettes
 Asheville. This years event will feature

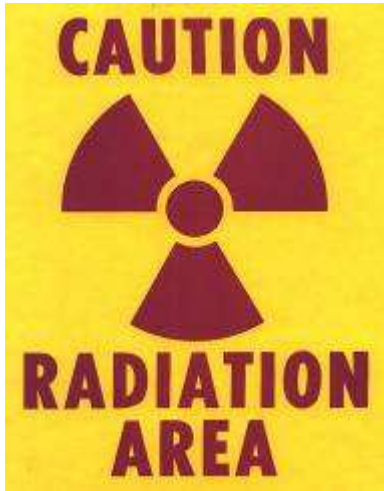
By Don Baker
 WENOCA President

The WENOCA Group will hold its annual holiday party on December 9th at 6:30 PM in Sandburg Hall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of

music by the Buckerettes, with Robin Cape, newly elected to the Asheville City Council. There will be pot luck food and we will provide beverages and door prizes. There is a \$5.00 suggested donation to cover the cost of the entertainment.

Please join us and invite any environmentally -minded friends to come and help us celebrate the season and the election!

THE GROWING NUCLEAR THREAT



By Susan Stewart and Margaret Sticpewich

The WENOCA Sierra Club supports the "Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads" campaign, a coalition formed to raise awareness of nuclear transports in our area.

Mary Olson, of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service, will speak at WENOCA's January 26th meeting. She will focus on the

connection between transport of nuclear waste and the proposals for new nuclear reactors.

Asheville is a crossroads -- and this is the Nuclear Heartland of the United States -- so it is really not surprising that nuclear shipments come through here on a regular basis. There is at least one shipment of nuclear material a week going near Asheville on rail or road. New policies of the Bush Administration are going to greatly increase the numbers of these shipments -- by orders of magnitude. Ms. Olson will discuss these increased shipments and suggest strategies to stop them.

A nuclear accident with long-lived high-level radioactive

waste could render Asheville permanently uninhabitable. "Putting high-level waste casks on our rails and roads is effectively a Mobile Chernobyl and exposes millions to the potentially catastrophic risks of severe transport accidents and even terrorist attacks on shipments," said Ms. Olson in a recent article in the WENOCAN.

Even though the problem of nuclear waste disposal has not been solved, the Bush administration is proposing using nuclear power to get the United States out of the energy crisis. The Southeastern US already has the most nuclear reactors in the

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country, and building more will produce even more radioactive waste. The EPA has proposed standards for nuclear waste containment for the Yucca Flats depository that extend for a million years! This is the waste that may travel through Asheville.

To learn more about this issue, see the websites of the Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads campaign, and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service. (See Page 3.)

Paving Over Paradise

The Pace of Road Development in the Southern Appalachian Region

Hugh Irwin, Conservation Planner, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, previews his presentation

Roads and highways are part of the crucial infrastructure in the Southern Appalachian region. However, these transportation corridors have tremendous impacts to natural ecosystems and human communities. Too often the planning and implementation of these corridors has ignored or inadequately dealt with these impacts. The impacts are especially damaging in the relatively unfragmented areas of the region with large public land ownership.

This presentation will examine the existing, pending, and proposed transportation network in the region, examining the documented effects on ecosystem functions and human communities. Long term sustainability concerns that should be brought into the discussion when-

ever road and highway construction or expansion is proposed will be highlighted. Some of the drivers that have compelled inevitable transportation system expansion despite environmental and community degradation will be identified and alternatives suggested.

The presentation will use this examination to focus on the potential impacts of the proposed Interstate 3 on public lands, natural resources, and communities in the Southern Appalachian mountains and foothills. Potential I-3 corridors through or around the mountains will be identified as well as public lands that would be impacted.

Cool Cities Tour Report

By Christa Wagner

All over America, cities, counties and states are launching an exciting grassroots movement to help solve one of our country's most pressing problems: global warming. Frustrated by stalling on the federal level, local leaders are moving forward with innovative energy solutions that cut our dependence on oil, benefit public health and save taxpayer dollars. These mayors, county commissioners and governors are leading the way toward a safer and more secure future.

Last week, I revved up my trusty Prius and headed for Durham, North Carolina to kick off the Southern leg of the Sierra Club's National "Cool Cities" tour, to celebrate the cities that are doing their part to stop global warming.

Along with a bevy of volunteers and partnering organizations from across the state, I hit the road for a week of promoting energy conservation, cleaner cars and renewable energy to local government, churches, schools and businesses.

Residents of Durham, Asheville and Chapel Hill NC, participated in house parties over a three day period to discuss what's already being done in their communities and to brainstorm a slate of clean energy options to present to local decision makers in the future.

Volunteers also organized press conferences to recognize their mayors for signing the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and for the visionary solutions in their

communities -- from Chapel Hill's energy bank to Asheville's fleet of natural gas and hybrid cars to Durham's urban greenway and creative re-use of old buildings.

The events were well attended by members of city council and city staff at each press conference.

Fifty-five volunteers participated in 3 house parties and 2 press conferences.

Media Coverage included reporters from the Raleigh News and Observer, the Durham Herald Sun, NBC, Raleigh, Warner Brothers, Raleigh, ABC, Raleigh, the Mountain XPress, Asheville, and NBC, Asheville.

I'd like to give a big thank you to the Sierra Club's Global Warming and Energy Team: Pat Carstensen, Scott Job, Carrie and Howard Krasnow, John Schelp, Kim Carlyle, Ulla Reeves, Margie Meares and Richard Fireman.

Supplemental material from the Sierra Club Website.

More Information on the Web

Common Sense at the Nuclear Crossroads
www.peacemakersjournal.org/csnc
Nuclear Information and Resource Service www.nirs.org
Cool Cities www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities/



Sierra Club Board Ballot

Vote for THREE candidates:

Susan Stewart

Grace Curry

Jeff Grimes

_____ (write in)

Cut out and Send Ballots to:

The WENOCA GROUP of the SIERRA CLUB
PO Box 469
Asheville, NC 28802-0469

Or bring them to the Holiday Party, December 9th.



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of the SIERRA CLUB
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The Executive Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at EarthFare in Asheville. All WENOCA members are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Don Baker at 299-4171 or at wenocan.president@gmail.com

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WENOCA SIERRAN is the newsletter of the Western North Carolina Sierra Club. The newsletter is published five times a year. If you have an article you'd like us to publish, please send it to the editor. Your comments are also welcome.

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