



# News from the Foothills

October 2009

**Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905

<http://virginia.sierraclub.org/piedmont/>

## Sierra Club Endorses Candidates



*Paid for by the Va. Sierra Club PAC. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.*

Each year Sierra Club volunteers select candidates we believe are worthy of the Club's support. We first send all candidates a questionnaire on environmental issues, examine their voting records, and often conduct interviews. If the Club believes that a candidate will act to protect the environment and promote community health once in office, we endorse that person for public office.

The Piedmont Group urges our members to support the following candidates on November 3:

**Bob Fenwick for Charlottesville City Council**

**Dave Norris for Charlottesville City Council**

**David Toscano for House of Delegates (57<sup>th</sup> District)**

**Cynthia Neff for House of Delegates (58<sup>th</sup> District)**

**James Towey for House of Delegates (56<sup>th</sup> District)**

**Creigh Deeds for Governor**

**Jody Wagner for Lt. Governor**

**Steve Shannon for Attorney General**

The Piedmont Group Executive Committee also reviewed questionnaires from the candidates for the Albemarle Board of Supervisors, but chose not to endorse in these contests. Responses from candidates for the Board of Supervisors and Charlottesville City Council are posted on the Piedmont Group website.

## Calendar of Events

### **Oct. 28 Piedmont Group EXCOM Meeting**

All Sierra Club members are invited to attend this meeting of our executive committee to learn about how decisions are made in the Piedmont Group and become more involved. 6:00 p.m. (Please call John at (434) 973-0373 if you plan to attend.)

### **Nov. 14 Ivy Creek Trail Hike in National Park**

Please join us for a hike on the scenic Ivy Creek Trail in the Shenandoah National Park. This three mile hike is easy to moderate with good views. We will meet to car pool at 10:30 a.m. and likely return by 4:30 p.m. Bring lunch and hiking boots. Please call Deborah at (434) 296-9637 to reserve your space on this outing.

### **Nov. 18 Sierra Club Program**

Local beekeeper Ian Henry will discuss threats to the bees in our area and introduce the documentary film "*The Silence of the Bees.*" 7:00 p.m. at the St. Mark Lutheran Church (corner of Ivy Rd. & Alderman Rd. in Charlottesville).

### **Jan. 20, 2010 Sierra Club Program**

Well-known local forester Tom Dearoff will make a presentation on *The Colonial History of Forests in Virginia.* 7:00 p.m. at the St Mark Lutheran Church.

*(For information about any of these activities please contact John at (434) 973-0373 or [jcruckshank4@gmail.com](mailto:jcruckshank4@gmail.com))*

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Sierra Club, Piedmont Group  
P.O. Box 5531  
Charlottesville, VA 22905

## Piedmont Group Officers

**Chair & Treasurer:** John Cruickshank

**Vice-Chair & Calendars:** Audrey Dannenberg

**Conservation Chair:** Tom Olivier

**Political Chair:** George Bowles

**Membership:** Carol Chandross

**Outings:** Allie Crowell & Deborah Judson- Ebbets

**Newsletter:** Shirley Napps

**Chapter Delegates:** George Bowles & Betty Black

**Webmaster:** Mark Judson-Ebbets

**Climate Change:** Diana Abbott

*(The Piedmont Group can always use more leaders. If you would like to become an activist, please join us at the EXCOM meeting on October 28.)*

### Join the Piedmont Group email List

Receive weekly updates on environmental issues and events in our area. To subscribe simply go to our website and click on "**Join the Piedmont Group's email list.**" <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/piedmont/>

### Sierra Club Calendars

The 2010 Sierra Club calendars (Engagement: \$13.95; Wilderness Wall: \$12.95) are now on sale. Buying directly from the Piedmont Group benefits our group locally. If you purchase 10 or more calendars, you receive \$1.00 off each calendar. For more information, please contact Audrey (434-293-4232 or [aadann@gmail.com](mailto:aadann@gmail.com)).

## Hands Across McIntire Park

On September 27 about 150 people demonstrated their support for the preservation of McIntire Park in central Charlottesville. People formed lines to show the large area that would be destroyed by the proposed highway construction.

The Sierra Club has a long history as an organization that works for the creation and protection of public parklands. We urge our members to attend a **public hearing on the Rt. 250 Bypass Interchange design** on October 29 at 7:00 p.m. at City Space in the Market St. Garage Bldg. on the downtown mall. Plans are available for viewing from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact John (434 973-0373 or [jcruickshank4@gmail.com](mailto:jcruickshank4@gmail.com)).

### Green Tips – Conserving Energy

1. Turn off lights when you leave the room.
2. Unplug electronics you aren't using if they have a standby mode. The "phantom" load of energy can add up to 5% of your total energy consumption. (You can also use a power strip that has a switch.)
3. Use "energy star" light bulbs and appliances.
4. Use a solar clothes dryer whenever possible.
5. Turn off your computer when it is not in use.
6. Shorten your showers to 5 minutes. Showers account for 2/3 of water heating costs.