



# News from the Foothills

August 2005

The Newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club  
P. O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905



## A Word from the Chair

The Piedmont Group now includes almost 1,200 Sierra Club members living in Rappahannock, Madison, Greene, Albemarle, Orange, Fluvanna, Louisa Counties and the city of Charlottesville. Together we can influence events that impact our community.

Members of the Piedmont Group have been active on a number of environmental fronts during the past few months. We have participated in discussions on the water supply issue and helped draft recommendations that were sent to civic leaders of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Liz Palmer of the League of Women Voters gave a very informative presentation on this topic at our meeting on May 4. Our group also provided critical support for the approval of a Natural Heritage Committee in Albemarle County.

Five members of the Piedmont Group attended the Sierra Club Jamboree at Pocahontas State Park in mid-May. We enjoyed making new friends and learning about the many environmental challenges facing our state, nation, and the world. Betty Black will be representing our group at the Sierra Summit in San Francisco this September.

Our new Outings Coordinator, Allie Crowell, led members on two wildflower walks during the Spring and early Summer. These interpretive walks increased our knowledge of native plants and birds and gave us an opportunity to share ideas on a variety of topics.

The Piedmont Group sponsored a "Candidates Forum" for the 57th Virginia House District. All four candidates participated and answered questions asked by the moderator and audience.

During the months ahead the Piedmont Group will make its voice heard on a number of issues critical to Central Virginia:

- Opposing the approval of a **North Pointe Development** that creates unnecessary commercial space, exacerbates traffic problems on Rt. 29, and has no resemblance to the "neighborhood model."
- Expanding **recycling** programs in our area.
- Lobbying for **air monitors**.

- Preventing the construction of additional nuclear **reactors at North Anna**.

A complete description of our "Environmental Agenda" can be found on the website. Please check it out!

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to make this a safe and healthy community. I hope you will be able to join us for some of the activities listed on the next page.

-John A. Cruickshank

## Calendar of Events

**Sept. 7** A **Piedmont Group General Meeting** will be held 7:30 p.m. at the St. Mark Lutheran Church, corner of Ivy Rd. and Alderman in Charlottesville.

Representatives from the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission & Rivanna Solid Waste Authority will discuss recycling programs in central Virginia.  
Call John at 973-0373 for more information.

**Sept. 24** The yearly **Vegetarian Festival** will be held at Lee Park in Charlottesville. The Sierra Club will have an information table in the park.  
Call John at 973-0373 if you would like to help distribute literature.

**Oct. 8** **Virginia Environmental Forum**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the U.Va. Dept. of Environmental Sciences building. (This event is being co-sponsored by the Sierra Club.)

**Oct. 29** **Environmental Service Project** 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. Piedmont Group members will clean up a pond area across from the Senior Center on Hillsdale Drive in Charlottesville. (Please call Barbara at 973-0373 for more information.)

## Upcoming Outing

**Nov. 12** **Ragged Mt. Natural Area Hike** 9:30 a.m. This easy hike around the reservoir is about 3½ miles long. Bring water. For more information call Allie at 295-1395.



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## Join the Piedmont Group email List

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

From

### SIERRA CLUB CURRENTS

The Latest Environmental Buzz

Volume V, #28  
Tuesday, July 12, 2005

ACCOUNTABILITY: ExxposeExxon

A coalition of groups, including the Sierra Club, launched a campaign today to educate the public on ExxonMobil's destructive environmental record. The campaign, "ExxposeExxon," will reveal the truth about the world's largest and most profitable oil companies' actions, including actively lobbying Congress to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, attempting to avoid paying all the damages due to those harmed by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, and funding organizations that work to discredit the science behind global warming.

ExxposeExxon urges the public to encourage Exxon-Mobil to change its policies by refusing to buy the

company's products, refusing to invest in the company and refusing to take a new job with the company.

Get involved in the ExxposeExxon campaign at:  
<http://info.sierraclub.org/ct.html?tr=on&s=arz.dyj1.o7l.4ud9.1j3n.kgdr.c5cl>

Read the New York Times' article on the campaign at:  
<http://info.sierraclub.org/ct.html?tr=on&s=arz.dyj1.o7l.5b3b.icwv.kgdr.c5cl>

## Piedmont Group Officers

### Chair:

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### Vice-Chair:

Audrey Dannenberg [aadann@cstone.net](mailto:aadann@cstone.net) 293-4232

### Membership:

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Darren Pace [darren.pace.h5z5@statefarm.com](mailto:darren.pace.h5z5@statefarm.com)

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### Outings Coordinator:

Allie Crowell [tomcr9@aol.com](mailto:tomcr9@aol.com) 295-1395

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David Sublette [davidsublette@aol.com](mailto:davidsublette@aol.com) 293-4427

### Political Chair:

Tom Olivier [tolivier@cstone.net](mailto:tolivier@cstone.net) 831-2408

Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_


Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Introductory  \$25 Phone (Optional) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual  \$40 Joint  \$50

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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