



News from the Foothills

September/October 2004

The Newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club

P. O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905

Info/voice mail line: 434-990-0996



Calendar of Events

October 2, 2004 (Sat)

- **Virginia at the Crossroads – Which Energy Future** 9:00 am – 2:45 pm Clark Hall, U. VA (434-296-2494)
- **Advocates for a Sustainable Population (ASAP) Conference** 9:00 am – 12:25 pm, Albemarle County Office Building Auditorium

October 16, 2004 (Sat)

Sierra Club Day at Chris Green Lake Park

- 9:00 am “Service Hike” around the lake
 - 10:30 am Tree Planting at the beach
 - 12:30 pm Potluck picnic at the shelter
- Please join us! Bring a friend and a shovel
For more info call John at 434-973-0372
Rain date Oct 30

November 17, 2004 (Wed)

Sierra Club Piedmont Group Meeting

7:30pm. At St. Mark Lutheran Church, corner Ivy and Alderman in Charlottesville. For more info call John at 434-973-0373

December 1, 2004 (Wed)

Potluck Supper

RSVP and directions: call Darren at 434-971-6797

Upcoming Outings

Saturday, October 2nd: Humpback Rocks

We will hike approximately 3.5 miles total starting out from the picnic area and rapidly ascend to the lookout .8 miles. The Forest Service rates this portion of the hike strenuous. Upon reaching the lookout we will take a hydration break and take in the panoramic view of the Shenandoah Valley.

Hopefully the Fall foliage will be vibrant. We will then proceed

East about .5 miles from the lookout to meet the Appalachian Trail and head North on the Appalachian Trail (downward slope) to Glass Hollow Overlook We will stop for lunch at the Overlook. After Lunch we will continue North on the Appalachian Trail until the intersection with the Old Appalachian Trail and proceed South on the Old Appalachian Trail back up to the Humpback Rocks Picnic Area.

The meeting points will be:

- 7:30AM Ruckersville Post Office (29S just S of RT 33)
- 8:15AM at the Sam's Club (near recycling depository) off route 29 in Charlottesville
- 9:30AM At Trail Head of Humpback Rocks right at mile marker 6 of the Blue Ridge Parkway (not the Visitor Center)

For more information, you can reach Dean at 434-825-9997 or via e-mail at d.leshock@att.net

Bring water, lunch and appropriate clothing. Check with Dean the morning of if weather is bad (between 7:00AM and 7:30AM).

More at <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/piedmont/outings.htm>

Bush Administration Attacks Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Help Protect Wild Forests - Keep the Roadless Rule Intact!

Update: The Bush administration announced they will extend the public comment period for the proposed changes to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule to November 15th.

Conservation groups and concerned citizens have flooded the USFS with requests for an extension; now we must keep the pressure on to protect our wild roadless forests.

One of the most popular conservation policies in American history was dealt a crippling blow with the Bush administration's decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Bush administration has proposed a convoluted process that will leave America's last wild forests open to destructive commercial logging and road building. This controversial decision forces Governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to protect their wild, roadless National Forests. The public comment period officially began on July 16 and continues through September 14, 2004.

Already, 440,000 miles of roads are carved into America's National Forests. The wildly popular Roadless Rule helped protect our remaining wild forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities from more taxpayer-subsidized commercial logging. The Roadless Rule was developed over three years of public hearings and scientific analysis. To date more than 2 million Americans have commented on the original rule, with 95 percent supporting the strongest wild forests protections.

This policy change is the Bush administration's latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of National Forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies. Web article at <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/piedmont/roadless.htm>
Take Action: Submit a Comment Today via Email to: statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us

Environmental Priorities Discussed at the Piedmont Group Meeting of September 8, 2004

Transportation

- Promote alternatives to the automobile
- Pedestrian sidewalks
- Bicycle pathways
- Park and ride areas for car pooling
- Improve and expand intercity rail service
- Expand local bus service and purchase cleaner buses
- Explore concept of a local rail system
- Divert funds from road construction to alternate modes of transportation

Education

- Inform the public about important environmental issues
- Create a speakers' bureau for schools and other organizations

Growth/Sprawl

- Limit commercial and residential development on Rt. 29 North (Northpointe)
- Limit population growth in rural areas and revitalize urban areas
- Support small businesses and oppose construction of "big box" stores
- Support creation of affordable housing

Natural Areas/Forests

- Support "Roadless Area Conservation Rule" of 2001
- Preserve greenspace and wildlife habitat in the Piedmont

Energy

- Oppose construction of additional nuclear power plants at North Anna
- Promote energy conservation and renewable sources of energy

Water Quality

- Protect our local supply of drinking water
- Oppose factory farming (significant cause of water pollution)
- Oppose a James River pipeline

Air Quality

- Lobby for the installation of air monitors

Fridays After-5 Soda Seller

The Piedmont Group needs your help in Charlottesville at Downtown Fridays After 5 manning the Coke stands on : Oct 1, 2004
To Volunteer you need to commit from promptly 5:45 PM- 9 PM
It's a blast and you meet a lot of smiling faces.
To claim your spot call (434-293-5901) or email d.leshock@att.net

Register to Vote for Our Environment

NEXT GENERAL ELECTION **NOVEMBER 2, 2004**

Deadline to Register to Vote is October 4th 2004

Info on the Web at

http://www.sbe.state.va.us/Registration_Section.htm

General Information Email: <mailto:minfo@sbe.state.va.us>

Or

Virginia State Board of Elections

Suite 101, 200 North 9th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219-3485

Telephone: 804 786-6551 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 Fax: 804 371-0194

[Ten Ways](http://www.sierraclub.org/planet/200407/tenways.asp) to Make the Environment Matter on Nov. 2:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/planet/200407/tenways.asp>

To Those Interested in the 29 Bypass Issue

VDOT needs your comments on the 29 bypass. . . again. . . once on the short term, the 6-year plan, and also on the longer term, 2025 Plan. We urge you to comment and, in the case of the six-year plan, to appear at the meeting, if possible.

1. VDOT has included the bypass in its 20-year VTRANS State Highway Plan, for which it seeks comment by **Thursday, September 30**. To send comments on the draft, please email them to statewideplan@VirginiaDOT.org. You may see specific info on 29 bypass at <http://www.sotrans.state.va.us/VTrans/culpeper.pdf>. (Warning! This is a substantial download). The chart on this site shows the 2025 plan containing the bypass as a 5.4 mile new construction project. (Warning: The site has the chart in small print so you need to enlarge for reading.)

In your comments, ask that the bypass be removed from the 20-year plan since the road is too costly and will be obsolete, given the amount of development and traffic north of the proposed bypass (Albemarle to Gainesville).

2. In addition, VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board are taking public comment on what should be included in the FY 2006-2011 6-year Improvement Plan. You may submit comments on the six year plan to Director of Public Transportation, Department of Rail and Public Transportation, info@drpt.gov or to Programming Director, Va. Dept. of Transportation, Six-YearProgram@VirginiaDOT.org through October 9.

A hearing will be held **Wed., Sept. 29** at the VDOT Culpeper District Auditorium, 1601 Orange Road, Culpeper (5-6 pm, informal open forum when comments can be submitted; 6 p.m. formal presentation and comments).

For the 6-year plan, you should ask that the 29 bypass not be included but request funding to continue the 29-Hydraulic-250

Study by the Thomas Jefferson Planning District, which includes alternatives to improve traffic flow on 29.

Background: VDOT's own traffic study showed that improvements at key intersections on Route 29 are the only effective way to ease traffic congestion. In December 2002, the CTB approved funding preliminary design work for possible improvements at two intersections: Route 29/Hydraulic Rd. and Route 29/Route 250 Bypass. More funding is needed to complete these studies. Overpasses at Hydraulic (and other intersections) could be appropriately scaled and cost-effective, without taking businesses.

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Who Do You Call Before Virginia Air Becomes Unhealthy? Why it's DEQ!

Office of Air Quality Monitoring Staff and Contacts

Department of Environmental Quality

Mailing Address
4949-C Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia 23060
Fax (804) 230-7738

Under Air Monitoring there are three different groups consisting of the [Particulate Monitoring Group](#) (operation of TSP, PM10, and PM2.5 monitors), [Technical Operations](#) (calibration, repair, and maintenance of analyzers), and [Data Processing, Evaluation & Special Projects Group](#) (FOIA requests, special data reports & requests, ozone mapping). Please choose a group and you will be directed to the appropriate staff contacts.
(Research: Thanks to Dean Leshock.)

Particulate Monitoring Group

Thomas F. Jennings, Environmental Engineer Consultant
(804) 527-5182, tfjennings@deq.virginia.gov

- Particulate monitoring group supervisor
- Virginia DEQ TSP, PM10, PM2.5 monitoring contact
- Particulate monitoring accuracy audits
- Meteorological instrumentation

Rudley A. Young, Environmental Engineer
(804) 527-5191, rayoung@deq.virginia.gov

- Particulate filter analysis program coordinator
- TSP, PM10, PM2.5 maintenance
- Particulate monitor accuracy audits

Vacant, Air Monitoring Technician
(804) 527-5184, @deq.virginia.gov

- PM2.5 Mass & Speciation monitor operation
- Particulate monitor accuracy audits
- Calibration transfer standards

Anton V. Sorkin, Air Monitoring Technician
(804) 527-5180, avsorkin@deq.virginia.gov

- Particulate monitor accuracy audits
- Calibration transfer standards
- PM2.5 Mass & Speciation monitor operation

Technical Operations Group

Vacant, Environmental Engineer Consultant
(804) 527-5192, @deq.virginia.gov

- Technical operations group supervisor
- Includes calibration, repair, audit & standards referencing
- NAAQS continuous monitors contact
- O3, SO2, NOx, CO
- Contact for operation of continuous analyzers

Vacant, Environmental Engineer Senior
(804) 527-5178, @deq.virginia.gov

- Instrumentation repair & maintenance program coordinator
- Contact for repair & maintenance of analyzers
- Calibration of analyzers
- Operation of continuous analyzers

Les C. Widmyer, Air Monitoring Technician, Senior
(804) 527-5189, lcwidmyer@deq.virginia.gov

- Repair & maintenance of analyzers and ancillary instrumentation
- Calibration of analyzers
- Operation of continuous analyzers

Kara B. Alber, Air Monitoring Technician
(804) 527-5179, kbalber@deq.virginia.gov

- Calibration of analyzers
- Referencing of secondary & transfer standards
- Operation of continuous analyzers

Tom F. Drake, Air Monitoring Technician
(804) 527-5193, tdrake@deq.virginia.gov

- Calibration of analyzers
- Referencing of secondary & transfer standards
- Operation of continuous analyzers

Vacant , Air Monitoring Technician

(804) 230-2060, @deq.virginia.gov

- Calibration of analyzers
- Referencing of secondary & transfer standards
- Preventive maintenance coordinator
- Operation of continuous analyzers

Data Processing, Evaluation & Special Projects Group

James D. Dinh, Environmental Engineer Consultant

(804) 527-5190, jddinh@deq.virginia.gov

- Emergency response & special study contact
- Ozone precursors & air toxic monitoring
- Ambient air toxics data analysis & assessment

M. Carolyn Stevens, Environmental Engineer Senior

(804) 527-5181, mcstevens@deq.virginia.gov

- FOIA Requests (Freedom of Information Act)
- Ozone mapping technical contact
- Criteria pollutant data validation/analysis
- Upper meteorological data contact

Baxter J. Gilley, Environmental Engineer Senior

(804) 527-5188, bjgilley@deq.virginia.gov

- Emergency response & special study
- Air toxic monitoring
- Upper meteorological monitoring

C. Brian King, Environmental Engineer Senior

(804) 527-5186, cbking@deq.virginia.gov

- Emergency response & special study
- Volatile ozone precursors monitoring
- PAMS data analysis

Shawn E. Coghill, Environmental Engineer Senior

(804) 527-5187, secoghill@deq.virginia.gov

- Audit of continuous and particulate monitors coordinator
- PAMS & VOC monitoring
- NOy contact
- NPAP & precision and accuracy contact

Crystal Y. Sorensen, Statistical Analyst

(804) 527-5183, cysorensen@deq.virginia.gov

- Special data requests & reports
- Virginia's AIRS/AQS contact
- Virginia Ambient Air Monitoring Report contact
- Air Monitoring Program web author

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

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