



## News from the Foothills

April 2005

The Newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club

P. O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905

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### Calendar of Events

#### Meetings

##### April 23-24 Earth Day Celebration

Members of the Piedmont Group will distribute free white pine seedlings and environmental literature. For more information please call John at (434) 973-0373.

##### April 30 Foxhaven Trails Hike

Join Sierra Club members for this three mile hike near Charlottesville. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Trinity Presbyterian Church at 3101 Fontaine Ave. extended. Please bring drinking water. For more information or if weather is questionable, call Allie at 295-1395.

##### May 4 Sierra Club Piedmont Group Meeting

7:30 p.m. at the St. Mark Lutheran Church (corner of Ivy Rd. & Alderman). For more information call John at (434) 973-0373.

##### May 11 Public Hearing on the North Pointe Development (tentative date)

Albemarle County Office Building. Please come and express your opinion on this massive development that could be twice the size of the Hollymead Town Center.

##### May 13-15 Sierra Club Jamboree at Pocahontas State Park

Gather with Sierrans from across Virginia to learn, have fun, and celebrate our shared commitment to the environment. For more information contact Joe Apple (703) 860-1254, joe.apple@comcast.net.

#### Upcoming Outings

See the outing scheduled for April 30 on Foxhaven Trails described above

### Piedmont Group Activities

Piedmont Sierrans are actively working on several environmental issues affecting residents of Central Virginia.

Our **group meeting on February 16** included discussions of land usage and nuclear energy.

Tom Olivier gave members an update on the Albemarle County **Rural Areas Plan** being considered by the Board of Supervisors. He also voiced strong support for the creation of a standing biodiversity committee to develop a protection plan and advise the supervisors.

John Cruickshank described the proposed plan for the **North Pointe** development to be located on 263 acres at the northeast corner of Rt.29 N and Proffit Rd. Concerns were expressed about the developer's proposal because it does not follow the neighborhood model, includes several large stores, will increase traffic on adjoining roadways, and will jeopardize water quality in the Rivanna River.

Elena Day and Abhaya Thiele described plans of Dominion Resources to build **two additional nuclear power plants at North Anna** in Louisa County. If the early site permit is approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Dominion will have twenty years to construct the reactors. Environmentalists are alarmed by the radioactive waste

that is being stored at North Anna, the serious consequences for water temperature and water levels in Lake Anna and the York River Watershed, and the probable increase of PCBs in the lake.

The Sierra Club was well represented at the NRC public hearing on the proposed new reactors in Mineral, Va. the next day. Two-thirds of the approximately 300 people in attendance opposed new reactors. Four Sierrans spoke at the hearing, including two from the Piedmont Group. The Sierra Club will continue to work closely with the People's Alliance for Clean Energy (PACE) in opposing these power plants.

#### Other Environmental Issues:

The executive committee (EXCOM) of the Piedmont Group has taken positions on two other important issues:

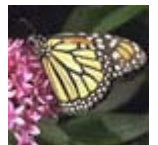
- **Transportation:** We are opposed to the Meadowcreek Parkway, Rt. 29 Bypass, and the Eastern Connector. We encourage local officials to instead prioritize public transportation (buses, trolley, group travel), walking, and biking.
- **Water Supply:** The Piedmont Group is opposed to the James River pipeline. We should use water from our own watershed. Conservation measures should be implemented now and the county should control growth so the need to go outside our watershed does not arise.

#### Join the Piedmont Group email List

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

#### Sierra Summit

Would you like to represent the Piedmont Group at the Sierra Summit in San Francisco this September? For more information please call John at (434) 973-0373



#### Piedmont Group Officers

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