

# News from the Foothills

August 2007

## Newsletter of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club

P.O. Box 5531, Charlottesville, VA 22905

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

### Calendar of Events

#### **Sept. 26 Sierra Club Program**

Anthropologist Jack Marshall will speak on "The Futility of Sustainability without a Limit on Population." 7:00 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church at the corner of Ivy Rd. and Alderman Rd in Charlottesville. For more information contact John at (434) 973-0373 or [jcruicks@peoplepc.com](mailto:jcruicks@peoplepc.com).

#### **Sept. 29 Vegetarian Festival**

Volunteers are again needed to work at the Sierra Club table at this fun festival in Lee Park.

Please contact John (see above) if you would like to help anytime between 10:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.

#### **Oct. 6 True Cost of Food Outing**

Join us for a healthy meal and discussion of environmental issues. We will meet at noon at *Feast* at 416 W. Main Street in Charlottesville. Please call Deborah at (434) 296-9637 to save your place at the table.

#### **Oct. 13 Pond Clean-Up**

The Piedmont Group has adopted a pond at the corner of Greenbrier Dr. & Hillsdale Dr., across from the Senior Center in Charlottesville. Please bring work gloves and old shoes. 9:30 a.m. For more information call Barbara at (434) 973-0373.

#### **Oct. 20 Fall Foliage Hike**

Join us for a moderately easy walk of about three miles at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:00 a.m. For more information, or if weather is questionable, call Allie at (434) 295-1395.

#### **Nov. 7 Sierra Club Program**

Mountaintop Removal Mining will be the topic of discussion for this program. Thomas Roberts & Terry Lilley will describe the devastation caused by this mining and tell us what we can do to stop it. 7:00 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church at the corner of Ivy Rd. and Alderman Rd in Charlottesville.. For more information contact John at 973-0373.

### A Word from the Chair

Members of the Piedmont Group have continued to take a leading role as advocates for a healthier environment in Central Virginia. Here is a partial list of our efforts:

- The Sierra Club is represented on Charlottesville's *Citizens Committee on Sustainability* that is taking significant actions to help the city meet the goals of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement (Kyoto Treaty).
- We have organized a petition drive asking the Albemarle Board of Supervisors to conduct an environmental impact study prior to approving rezoning of the Biscuit Run property. Thanks to the help of so many activists, we currently have over 875 signatures.
- The Piedmont Group successfully lobbied for the creation of an Agricultural Support Position in Albemarle that will actively promote local and organic farming and help preserve the county's rural areas.
- With Sierra Club support, *Friends and Advocates for Children, Teachers, and Schools* was able to convince the Albemarle Board of Supervisors to begin using only non-toxic cleaners and pesticides at county parks.
- Group members have continued to raise concerns about the proposed construction of a new nuclear reactor at North Anna and spoke at the public hearing of the Water Control Board in Mineral on July 18. *(continued on next page)*

Sierra Club, Piedmont Group  
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Our *True Cost of Food* program has sponsored outings to local organic restaurants and to the Polyface Farm in the Shenandoah Valley. We organized presentations on energy efficiency, healthy alternatives to synthetic cleaners & pesticides, the Gaia Theory, and the George Washington National Forest.

- Our information table has been active at a number of community events including the Earth Day Festival, the city market, and the Vegetarian Festival. Club members enjoyed discussing environmental issues with other members of the community. On Earth Day we distributed 50 free oak seedlings to the public.
- Group outings have taken us to the Ivy Creek Natural Area, the Rivanna Trail, and the Shenandoah National Park.
- Members gathered this Spring to clean up our adopted pond near the Senior Center in Charlottesville and to plant our fourth tree on the beach at Chris Greene Lake.
- The Piedmont Group also endorsed and worked for candidates that have strong environmental records.

I want to thank the many members who have participated in these activities. We have learned from each other, increased public awareness about threats to our planet, and had some good fun together. I encourage all members to join our email list to learn how you can become an activist for the environment.

*John A. Cruickshank*



*Above: Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm shows us his portable pens for roasting chickens and his battery-powered cattle fence.*

## **How Green is Your House?**

The Habitat Store is sponsoring a two-year series of workshops, called GreenMatters. These workshops are designed to help educate and inform the public on a variety of green building and design principles, and environmentally friendly materials. The series recognizes the significant impact the built environment has on our natural environment, economy, and health. All workshops feature a social hour from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., workshop presentations from 6:00 to 7:30, and time to chat with speakers from 7:30 to 8:00. The next one will be held on August 29. For more information, go to <http://greenmatters.info/>.

## **Household Hazardous Waste Collection**

The Rivanna Solid Waste Authority will accept hazardous waste materials at the Ivy Landfill on Oct. 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity to safely dispose of your old CFLs, paint, appliance, etc. For more information call 295-3306.

## **Earth Friendly Friday**

Please join us for an Earth Friendly Friday presentation by Randy Salzman. Randy will speak on local and national transportation issues including alternatives such as bicycle paths and trolleys. He recently wrote two articles in the Hook about transportation. The presentation will be free and open to the public. It will be on Nov. 16 at 7.00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church at 717 Rugby Road. This event is sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church Environmental Concerns Committee.

## **Join the Piedmont Group email list**

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