

News from the Foothills

December 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

Jan. 8 Public Hearing on Proposed Coal Plant

The Piedmont Group and Appalachian Voices are organizing car and van pools to Richmond for this hearing. (see article on next page)

Jan. 18 Earth Friendly Friday

"The Disappearance of the Honeybee" with a video called the " *Silence of the Bees* " will be the topic for this Earth Friendly Friday program, co- sponsored by the Environmental Concerns Committee of the Unitarian Church and the Piedmont Sierra Club. Comments by a local beekeeper, Kathy Miller, and discussion will follow.

7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church at 717 Rugby Rd. in Charlottesville. For more information call Deborah at 296-9637.

Jan. 23 Sierra Club Program

Al Weed will speak on "*Climate Change in Virginia: The Coming Flood & Why Nobody Seems to Care.*" 7:00 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church (corner of Ivy Rd. & Alderman Rd. in Charlottesville) (434) 973-0373

Feb. 13 Piedmont Group EXCOM Meeting

All Sierra Club Members are invited to attend this meeting of our executive committee to learn more about how decisions are made in the Piedmont Group. 6:00 p.m. C'Ville Coffee (1301 Harris St. in Charlottesville) (434) 973-0373.

Feb. 23 Three Ridges Trail Hike & Organic Dinner

Hike Three Ridges Wilderness area and then relax and refuel with delicious organic fare

at Basic Necessities Restaurant in Nellysford. The hike is moderately strenuous and follows the Appalachian Trail for a total of 3 miles. We will meet at Barnes and Noble at Barracks Rd. Mall to carpool. Please call Deborah at 296-9637 to reserve your spot by February 15. The hike will be led by Allie Crowell and Deborah Judson-Ebbets.

March 19 Sierra Club Program Tim Beatley will lead a discussion on local and organic agriculture. 7:00 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church For more information call Deborah at (434) 296-9637.

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."

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Sierra Club Calendar Sales

Sierra Club 2008 calendars are on sale now! Engagement calendars are \$13.95 and Wilderness wall calendars are \$12.95. When calendars are purchased directly from the Piedmont Group, the profit stays with the Group for its local activities. To obtain your calendar, email Audrey at aadann@gmail.com.

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

How to Stop a coal power plant!

Dominion Virginia Power is pushing through a new coal fired power plant in Wise County that will significantly increase greenhouse gases and mountaintop removal mining in Virginia. A coalition of environmental groups is working to block approval of this new plant, but we need your help.

Please consider testifying in person against the Wise County power plant:

- WHEN: January 8, 2008, at 10 :00 a.m. (speakers must arrive before 9:45 am)
- WHERE: State Corporation Commission (SCC) Courtroom, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, VA . (Appalachian Voices is renting vans to take people to the hearing.)
- WHAT: Speak for 3 minutes to share your concerns about why this coal plant would be a bad deal for Virginia's ratepayers.

For information about transportation and "talking points" please contact:

- Mike McCoy (434) 293-6373 (Mike@appvoices.org)
- Shirley Napps (434) 296-8578 (napps@alum.darmouth.org)
- John Cruickshank (434) 973-0373 (jcruicks@peoplepc.com)

RIDE SHARE

RideShare is a program of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission which covers Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson. Its purpose is to reduce traffic congestion by single occupancy cars and vans.

Those who register with RideShare receive many benefits. RideShare provides a matching service for commuters for CarPools and VanPools, and for parents for SchoolPools. For VanPools the program coordinates the leasing of a van.

For full-time or permanent part-time employees registered with the program, a

free Guaranteed Ride Home is provided in emergencies, up to five times a year (for those who car/van pool, bicycle or ride transit at least two days a week).

The program also works with employers to devise traffic reduction plans (e.g., schedule alternatives and teleworking) and with other agencies to develop free Park and Ride lots in locations convenient to car pools or public transit.

Those of us who are not employed can still do our part by sharing rides as often as possible with friends and neighbors, and learning about alternative transportation. If we have to drive alone, we can help out by "trip chaining" -arranging our schedules and errands so that we combine them into one vehicle trip.

To register or for more information on all methods of transportation, go to www.rideshareinfo.org or call 434/295-6165 or 888/974-5500.

EXCOM Elections

Please complete your ballot for the following "Executive Committee" candidates and mail to:

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

Ballot

(You may vote for all candidates. Two votes may be cast by joint membership households.)

Diana Abbott	_____	_____
Betty Black	_____	_____
Allie Crowell	_____	_____
John Cruickshank	_____	_____
Deborah Judson-Ebbets	_____	_____
Mark Judson-Ebbets	_____	_____
Shirley Napps	_____	_____
Tom Olivier	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____