

News from the Foothills

February 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

March 7 Sierra Club Program

"Discover the Hidden Gems of Shenandoah Mt. and the George Washington N. F.: Learn How We Can Protect Them." David Hannah of Wild Virginia will talk about a new Forest Service plan for this important resource and how we can help protect it. 7:30 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church (corner of Ivy Rd. and Alderman Rd.). For more information call John at (434) 973-0373.

March 21 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) For more information call John at (434) 973-0373.

March 24 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.

April 14 Third Annual Wildflower

Walk Come watch Spring unfold as we hike about three miles in a lovely area full of wildflowers and river views. Bring water and good walking shoes. We will meet at the Darden Towe tennis courts at 9:30 a.m. Call Allie if you have questions or the weather is questionable. (434) 295-1395

April 22 Earth Day Tree Planting

Celebrate Earth Day by helping us plant a shade tree on the beach at Chris Green Lake in northern Albemarle County. We will meet on the beach at 2:00 p.m. Call John (434) 973-0373 for more information.

April 28 Earth Day Festival

at McIntire Park in Charlottesville. Volunteers are needed to distribute trees and literature at the Sierra Club table from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please contact John (434) 973-0373 jcruicks@peoplepc.com if you would like to help.

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."

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.)

Audrey Dannenberg	_____	_____
Carol Chandross	_____	_____
George Bowles	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Biscuit Run Development Proposal

Biscuit Run is a massive development proposed for construction in Albemarle County. The site occupies over 900 acres, between Old Lynchburg Road and Route 20 just south of Charlottesville. The proposed development includes thousands of residences and new commercial spaces. The owners are seeking a rezoning that will allow the project to go forward.

Many unanswered questions regarding on-site aspects of the proposal remain and no analysis of the impact of the development on the surrounding rural environment is planned. Comments from the public at recent Albemarle County Planning Commission meetings have been heavily negative. A public hearing before the Albemarle County Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled for March 27. A public hearing before the Board of Supervisors is tentatively scheduled for May 9.

The Sierra Club is collecting signatures on a petition that asks the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors to delay a decision on the Biscuit Run rezoning until an environmental impact study is completed. We ask that the project be approved then only if it is shown to be compatible with Albemarle County's many commitments to environmental protection and maintains the quality of life of current residents. To receive a copy of this petition email jcruicks@peoplepc.com.

For more information on the Biscuit Run proposal, contact Claudette Grant (cgrant@albemarle.org), a staff member of the Albemarle County Department of Planning and Community Development.

Nature Camp

Do you know a youngster who can't take a walk in the woods without turning over every rock in search of insects or salamanders? Who loves to wade in creeks, catch butterflies or look for birds? Who would rather be outside investigating nature than indoors watching TV or playing video games? If so, then Nature Camp might just be the place for him or her. Located in the George Washington National Forest near Lexington, Virginia, Nature Camp is a coeducational, residential summer camp specializing in natural history and environmental education for 5th through 12th graders. Once described as a place "where fingertips are taught to see," Nature Camp emphasizes hands-on, field-based, experiential learning in classrooms consisting of forest, field and stream. In each of four two-week sessions divided by age group, campers attend classes in such subjects as botany, geology, and ornithology, but also enjoy plenty of free time for hiking, swimming, and games. Many campers return summer after summer throughout their high school years and form lasting friendships that extend into adulthood, as they develop a deep and abiding attachment to nature and a lifelong love of learning.

For more information, check out the Nature Camp website at www.naturecamp.net or call or e-mail camp director Philip Coulling at 540-460-7897 or director@naturecamp.net.

Sierra Club, Piedmont Group

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