



# News from the Foothills



March 2006

## 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 30 Biofuels Presentation**

Public Policy Virginia will hold a panel discussion on this alternative source of energy. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church at 717 Rugby Rd. in Charlottesville. For more information see [www.ppvir.org](http://www.ppvir.org) or call David at 220-0732.

#### **April 1 Spring Wildflower Walk**

This easy two hour ramble follows the scenic Rivanna River where wildflowers grow in profusion. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Darden Towe Park tennis court parking lot. Bring water and good walking shoes. Call Allie at 295-1395 for more information or if the weather looks questionable.

#### **April 19 Piedmont Group General Meeting**

Master gardener Deborah Judson-Ebbets will offer useful tips on "Organic Gardening and Lawn Care." 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church at the corner of Ivy and Alderman Roads in Charlottesville. For more information contact John (973-0373 [jcruicks@peoplepc.com](mailto:jcruicks@peoplepc.com)).

#### **April 22 Earth Day Eco-Fair at Meade Park** 11:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The Sierra Club is joining other organizations for this celebration that will include exhibits, learning activities, music, and much more. The Piedmont Group will be distributing free pine seedlings. Please contact John (973-0373 [jcruicks@peoplepc.com](mailto:jcruicks@peoplepc.com)) if you would like to help at our table. More information on the Eco-Fair is at [www.Earthweek.org](http://www.Earthweek.org).

#### **May 6 Rose River Falls Trail Hike**

This beautiful, three hour hike (4.6 miles) will begin at Fishers Gap, just north of Big Meadows. It will include a side trip to Dark

Hollow Falls. Bring food, water, warm clothes, and some money for the park entrance fee. Meet at the Northside Library (Albemarle Square) at 8:30 a.m. Rain date is Sunday, May 7 at 8:30. Call Allie at 295-1395 if the weather looks questionable.

### Environmental Agenda

The Executive Committee of the Piedmont Group met on March 1 to plan activities and update our goals for the future. The "Environmental Agenda" is on the next page of this newsletter. Please read it carefully and send your comments to [jcruicks@peoplepc.com](mailto:jcruicks@peoplepc.com).



Darren Pace helps clean a pond in Albemarle Co.

# Environmental Agenda of the Piedmont Group of the Sierra Club for 2006

## Transportation

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

## Education

- Inform the public about important environmental issues
- Create a speakers' bureau for schools and other organizations
- Educate the public about organic farming and sustainable lifestyles

## Growth/Sprawl

- Limit commercial and residential development
- 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 "The Roadless Area Conservation Rule" of 2001
- Preserve habitats through the creation of natural resource conservation areas

## Energy

- Oppose construction of additional nuclear power plants at North Anna
- Promote energy conservation and inform the public about renewable sources of energy
- Support programs to expand recycling in our region

## Water Quality

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

## Air Quality

- Lobby for the installation of air monitors
- Encourage local governments to sign on to the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement which strives to meet or exceed the Kyoto Treaty

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