

News from the Foothills

November 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

Nov. 4 Ivy Creek Hike

Take a leisurely three mile hike at the Ivy Creek Natural Area. Enjoy the last of the Fall foliage and the company of other hikers. We will meet in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m. For more information call Allie at 295-1395.

Nov. 21 True Cost of Food Outing

Join us for a healthy meal and discussion of environmental issues. We will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Revolutionary Soup on 2nd St. SW in Charlottesville. Please call Deborah at (434) 296-9637 to save your place at the table.

Jan. 17 Sierra Club Program

"Synthetic Cleaners & Pesticides in Our Schools & Homes: What are the Health Risks?" Jackie Lombardo is the founder of Friends and Advocates for Children, Teachers, & Schools (FACTS). She will share information about the chemical cleaners and pesticides currently used in our local school system and in many homes. Jackie will discuss the alternatives that are safer and kinder to the environment. 7:00 p.m. St. Mark Lutheran Church at the corner of Ivy Rd. and Alderman Rd. in Charlottesville.

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

Jan. 25 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.

Feb. 9 True Cost of Food Outing

For more information call Deborah at (434) 296-9637

March 7 Sierra Club Program

Topic TBA. St. Mark Lutheran Church 7:00 p.m.

A Word from the Chair

Piedmont Group members have been busy this year with a number of activities bringing attention to important environmental issues. Here is a partial list of efforts:

- In collaboration with the Charlottesville Center for Peace & Justice, we successfully helped convince the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle Board of Supervisors to sign the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.
- The Piedmont Group took a leading role in opposing the huge North Pointe development that was, unfortunately, approved by the Albemarle BOS in August.
- Our information table has been active at a number of community events including the Earth Day Eco-Fair & the Vegetarian Festival. Club members enjoyed discussing environmental issues with members of the community.

- Our Group co-sponsored a speech by Helen Caldicott on nuclear power that was attended by 150 people.
 - We organized presentations about air quality, biofuels, organic gardening, energy conservation, global warming, and the Gaia Theory.
 - Group outings have taken us to the Rivanna Trail, the Shenandoah N.P., and along the Rivanna River to observe Spring wildflowers.
7. 7. Replace your lightbulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. (Recycling information can be found at www.aercycling.com)
 8. 8. Bring your own cloth bags when you go food shopping. Some stores offer a rebate.

Calendars

Sierra Club calendars are now available. Engagement calendars are \$13.95 and Wilderness wall calendars are \$12.95. To purchase a calendar, please call Audrey at (434) 293-4232. Proceeds directly benefit the Piedmont Group.

I thank the many members who participated in these activities. We have learned from each other, increased public awareness about threats to our planet, and had some good fun together. All members of the community are encouraged to join us at future events.

John A. Cruickshank

Green Tips

1. If every U.S. household replaced one roll of regular paper towels with 100% recycled ones, we could save 544,000 trees. (nrdc.org/land/forest/gtissue.asp) Better yet, we can use cloth towels to clean up.
2. Maintaining a lawn has environmental costs in terms of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, and air pollution from mowing. "Eat Your Lawn" offers some Earth friendly alternatives. (ediblestates.org)
3. Consider gift wrapping alternatives as we enter the holiday season. Reuse saved paper, wrap with old newspapers, or purchase the reusable gift bags.
4. Purchasing local produce is a great way to conserve energy and reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases.
5. Help yourself and others save money on new purchases by using freecycle.com.
6. Turn your vegetable waste into fertile soil for your garden by starting a compost.

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."

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