



WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the
Western North Carolina Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

FEB - APR 2014

Upcoming Events:

Unitarian Congregation
1 Edwin Place, Asheville
(corner of Charlotte St. & Edwin Pl.)
Social: 7 pm / Program: 7:15 pm
Free and open to the public

Wednesday, February 5
Melita Kyriakou

*Biofuels: A Fully Integrated
Local Energy System*

Wednesday, March 5
Marcia Bromberg

Hiking in WNC

Wednesday, April 2
Emma Greenbaum

*Beyond Coal:
Success and Future Plans*

WENOCA will hold meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. Executive Committee meetings will be held at 5:30 pm prior to the monthly programs.

All members are invited to attend.

For more information, call
Judy Mattox at 828-683-2176
or email judymattox@sbcglobal.net.

WENOCA SIERRAN is the newsletter of the Western North Carolina Sierra Club. The newsletter is published four times a year. Articles and comments are welcome.

Biofuels: A Fully Integrated Local Energy System - Feb. 5

Join us on Wed., Feb. 5 at 7 pm to welcome Melita Kyriakou who will discuss Biofuels. No business exists in a vacuum: output from one becomes the input for another in an interconnected web. Melita Kyriakou will explain how Blue Ridge Biofuels set out to become a community fuel provider seeking to improve our region's air quality and fuel security. Blue Ridge Biofuels did so by capturing a valuable resource generated in WNC for use as biodiesel fuel for vehicles and heating homes. Besides discussing biodiesel, she will talk about her company's other projects, including the Cooking Oil Recycling Program and the F3 Project: Field to Fryer to Fuel. By diversifying the company and offering new and innovate services and products, BRB is working to increase the sustainability and resiliency of our local communities. You can learn more about the company at:
www.BlueRidgeBiofuels.com
www.Facebook.com/BlueRidgeBiofuels
www.CookingOilRecycling.org

Melita is a Managing Partner at Blue Ridge Biofuels. She joined BRB in 2006 as a part-time book-keeper and has grown to become the Business Administrator, responsible for the administration of BRB and, its financial, compliance, human resources, marketing, IT, and dataflow systems. Melita started BRB's Cooking Oil Recycling Program, a community-based program that provides a recycling service to seven counties in WNC and provides low-cost raw materials to BRB. Melita seeks to strengthen BRB's fiscal soundness, the health of its workforce, and the company's reputation in the community by building relationships with sustainability partners including other green energy businesses, green jobs training programs, and community-based organizations.



Melita Kyriakou

Melita graduated college Magna Cum Laude, and is currently enrolled in the MBA program at Lenoir-Rhyne University. She is also an independent consultant to area businesses in the green economy and serves on the Board of local non-profit Green Opportunities.

Hiking in Western North Carolina - Mar 5



Marcia Bromberg

Join us on Wed., March 5 when Sierra Club will present Marcia Bromberg, immediate past president of the Carolina Mountain Club (CMC). Marcia has a wealth of knowledge about hiking in the western North Carolina area and great experience leading and participating in hundreds of mountain hikes. Her talk will cover CMC's conservation activities, greenways and greenway development in Asheville and Buncombe County, CMC's mission to encourage and

support hiking in WNC. Marcia will also share some of her favorite places to hike in the area. If you have any interest in hiking in WNC, this is a program you won't want to miss!

Marcia is a retired financial administrator living in Asheville. She held senior administrative positions at Wesleyan University, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, the University of Wisconsin System and Tulane University. She holds an MBA from the University of Connecticut and a BA in mathematics from Emory University.

Her community interests include community health and well-being. She has served on numerous civic boards and commissions, including having served as board president for MANNA Foodbank.

Green Cleaning Tip!

Vinegar wages a personal vendetta against germs in your house. This acidic liquid can be added to baking soda to make a natural drain cleaner, and it can be mixed to a paste with salt to make a chrome sink cleaner.

Beyond Coal: Success and Future Plans - Apr. 2



Emma Greenbaum

Join us on Wed., April 2 at 7 pm as Asheville Beyond Coal organizer Emma Greenbaum presents an update on past successes and plans for future campaigns.

2013 was a red letter year for the Sierra Club Asheville Beyond Coal campaign. Through smart organizing and advocacy, local lobbying, and litigation, the campaign has made great strides toward retiring the Asheville Coal Plant and moving

Western North Carolina onto homegrown, clean energy solutions.

To date, 152 coal powered plants have been closed throughout the United States. In Asheville, 5,500 petitions

were delivered to Duke Energy requesting the retirement of the Asheville Power Plant with transition to clean energy. Come learn about the big successes of last year, including the City of Asheville Clean Energy Resolution and the Rally for Our Future that was held in August. Learn how you can engage in the fight against climate change right here in Asheville!

Emma Greenbaum joined the Seirra Club's Beyond Coal campaign in September of 2012, after serving a year with Green Corps, the field school for environmental organizing. During her time with Green Corps, she worked on several campaigns including the successful Beyond Coal campaign in Chicago, IL and Food and Water Watch's Fair Farm Bill Campaign in New York state. In August 2010, Emma graduated with her BA in Economics and International Development, with a focus on Latin America. During her time at American University, she was a student leader and organizer, working on campaigns ranging from fair trade to workers rights on campus.



North Carolina: Battleground State

Please watch this important documentary on how big money and radical politics has changed our state government, thereby impacting education, taxes, environment, insurance, and all aspects of life in North Carolina.

Also worth noting - PBS blacked out viewing of this documentary throughout most of the state, with the exception of a few local Time-Warner digital-only cable subscribers.

You can view it online at: billmovers.com/segment/north-carolina-battleground-state. And please pass on the link to others throughout NC.

WENOCA Group Community Leaders Awards for 2013

- Susan Fisher - Outstanding Environmental Legislator
- Karen Chavez - Outstanding Environmental Journalist
- Green Sage Café - Outstanding Environmental Business
- Dot Sulock - Outstanding Environmental Educator
- Lisa McWherter - Outstanding Outings Leader for Sierra Club
- Grace Curry - Long Standing Leader for WENOCA Sierra Club



Randy Talley and Roger Derrough, owners of Green Sage Café.



**Help us save trees ...
Let us e-mail your newsletter!**



WENOCA member emails are requested.
Send your email address to: judymattox@sbcglobal.net.

EPA creates 'carbon pollution standard' for new power plants

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a groundbreaking new proposal, creating the first-ever federal carbon pollution standard for every new power plant built in America. This is a game changer for the climate – especially because power plants are our single largest source of carbon pollution.

Stand with the Sierra Club and support this groundbreaking regulation to ensure a cleaner, healthier future for everyone.

The unlimited dumping of carbon pollution is the chief cause of climate change. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution from power plants is a life-saving measure that

will protect our children, our nation and the world from the devastating effects of climate change. The EPA needs to hear from you - add your voice in favor of this historic regulation!

We have 60 days to tell the EPA we support this effort to reduce the deadly effects that carbon pollution has on the health of our children and our environment. Corporate polluters are already doing everything they can to block this important health protection. Will you join others around the country in saying you believe we must put people before polluters and protect our children and future generations from climate change?

Submit a public comment to the EPA in support of the standard and your voice will be part of the official record. Go to action.sierraclub.org/carbon to submit your comments today.

Buncombe County passes 80% carbon reduction resolution

On December 3, 2013, the Buncombe County Commission adopted a resolution calling for an 80% carbon reduction goal with at least 2% per year reduction. They also approved investing the first \$800,000 in energy efficiency initiatives over the next few years (which will save the county over \$175,000 per year in energy costs). The vote was 5-2 in favor, including moderate Republican commissioner David King.

About 50 supporters turned out for the commission meeting. Supporters spoke from several environmental

organizations, clean energy and energy efficiency businesses. Three of the five commissioners who voted in favor, including David King, Holly Jones, and Brownie Newman attended the local WENOCA Sierra Club group holiday party and awards ceremony on Dec. 4 to thank the group for their contribution. David Gantt and Ellen Frost also voted in favor. Brownie Newman, the sponsor of the initiative, gave credit to the Sierra Club for the huge volume of emails and calls the commission received. He went as far as to say that without the Sierra Club's advocacy, the resolution may not have passed, and certainly would not have passed with the same vote count. This is a great step forward for the county and our region.



Mid-Winter - Early Spring Hiking Schedule



SAT, FEB 22 - HIKE RATTLESNAKE LODGE & BEYOND – Approx 5.2 miles round-trip on this mostly easy hike. will start at Ox Creek Rd and stay mostly on Mountains-to-Sea trail, then on to the Main Reservoir trail for some variation on the theme. Plan to learn about the interesting remains from the old Rattlesnake Lodge, which burned down in 1926. It's a nice place to stop for lunch, too. Wear good foot wear and bundle up. Please email or write hike leader if you'd like to bring your well-behaved doggie - who must be on leash at all times. Meet at 10:30 am in Asheville, back around 4:30 pm. Contact hike leader to sign up. Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com, or call 828-713-4994.

SAT, MAR 22 - GREEN RIVER GAMELANDS - PULLIUM CREEK TRAIL - Moderate with some easy level of difficulty. Approx 6.5 miles round-trip on this there & back trail with elevation gain of 900 ft. Meet in Asheville at 10 am and return about 5:45 pm. It's a beautiful trail that ends up at the Green River just below the narrows, with rapids moving through large boulders. On the way, there's a tedious creek crossing with wiggly step-stones, so wear good footwear and consider a hiking pole. Plan to learn about the beautiful early-blooming wildflowers there as well. **NOTE:** Sorry, no doggies this trip due to Pullium Creek crossing. Hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

SAT, APR 19 – DEVIL'S COURTHOUSE TO FLAT LAUREL CREEK TRAIL – Distance is approx 6 miles, rated as moderate/easy. This hike offers some beautiful vistas in addition to the panoramic view from Devil's Courthouse. Learn about the ravens which congregate on the rock outcrops along the trail, and learn to identify them. Not a great deal of elevation change - around 500 ft. However, the Mountains to Sea section is rather rugged, with intermittent tree roots and 10" steps/rocks. Makes good footwear essential, and may be hiking poles as well. We'll be doing a loop from Black Balsam parking area to MST going to Devil's Courthouse. Then we'll return via Little Sam Knob trail, which takes us to the Flat Laurel Creek trail. From Devil's Courthouse, there is view of mountains across two state lines if visibility is good. Meet in Asheville at 10 am and return around 5:30 pm. This hike is for experienced hikers only. RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

The Executive Committee meets monthly. For more information, please contact Judy Mattox at 828-683-2176 or at judymattox@sbcglobal.net. All WENOCA members are invited to attend.

Our website is www.wenoca.org.

WENOCA OFFICERS - 2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judy Mattox – Chair - 828-683-2176

Lisa McWherter - Outings Leader

Rich Wasch - Treasurer

Mark Threlkeld - River Cleanup - At Large

Ken Brame - Political Committee

Anne Marie Doherty - At Large

Gene Keil - Website/Membership Committee

Rober Zieber - At Large

Elaine Lite - Newsletter Editor

Kelly Martin - Beyond Coal - 828-251-1272



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EDITION 02-04-2014

NON-PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 260
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Hard 2 Recycle Event held April 26

A Hard 2 Recycle event will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 8 am - 1 pm at the City Tail Gate Market, 161 S. Charlotte (Public Works Building) in downtown Asheville. The free public collections are held quarterly in different areas of Buncombe County, as well as one in downtown Asheville, to bring awareness to other consumer items that may be recycled.

The goal is to educate, collect and divert items that would normally end up in the landfill such as styrofoam, electronics, blankets, batteries, used cooking oil, metal, wiring, pet foods/cleaning supplies, hard-covered books, eyeglasses, art supplies, musical instruments, etc.

There is a \$6 handling fee to recycle TV's and CRT computer monitors. To check out the complete list of items you may recycle and sign up to receive future event notices, go to www.ashevillegreenworks/hard-to-recycle.html.

Let NCDOT know about transportation issues that are important to you

Online go to www.ncdot.gov/strategictransportationinvestments/PublicMeetings.html, Public Workshops/ Meetings, click on Division 13 on the map and scroll down to the "Comment Form" link. Hearing date is Tues., Feb. 11, 4-7 pm at AB Tech, Enka Campus, Haynes Bldg, 1465 Sand Hill Road in Candler. For more info, contact Kristina Solberg, PO Box 3279, Asheville, NC 28802 or call (828) 251-6171. For a link to talking points and more info: wnca.org/feb-11-nc-dot-public-hearing-on-regional-transportation-priorities.