



WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the
Western North Carolina Sierra Club

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

NOV 2014 - JAN 2015

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, Nov 5
Dave Erb & guest panel
Sustainable Transportation

Wednesday, Dec 3
Holiday Party!
All are warmly invited to attend our 5th Annual Holiday Party and Recognition Awards. Please bring a potluck dish.

Wednesday, Jan 7
Brent Martin
The Wilderness Act Celebrates 50 Years

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.

Elections 2014 - Sierra Club Endorsements

After an extensive process of reviewing the environmental voting records, positions, and interviews with the candidates, the Sierra Club has endorsed the following candidates for the November 4th General Election.

US Senate

Kay Hagan

NC Supreme Court

Sam J. Ervin IV

Robin Hudson

Mark Martin

NC Court of Appeals

Mark Davis

Lucy Inman

State Legislature

NC State Senate

District 49: **Terry Van Duyn**
(Buncombe County)

NC House of Representatives

District 114: **Susan Fisher**
(mostly the city of Asheville)

District 115: **John Ager**
(Northern & Eastern Buncombe County)

District 116: **Brian Turner**
(Western & Southern Buncombe County)

District 118: **Dean Hicks**
(Madison, Yancey, and parts of Haywood Counties)

District 119: **Joe Sam Queen**
(Jackson, much of Haywood, and parts of Swain Counties)

Buncombe Co. Commissioners

District 1: **Brownie Newman**

District 2: **Ellen Frost**

District 3: **Nancy Waldrop**

Know where, when, and how to vote:

October 23 - November 1: Early voting period

November 4: General Election Day

To find a polling place for Early Voting:

Visit www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/os_sites or call 919-733-7173

To find your polling place for Election Day:

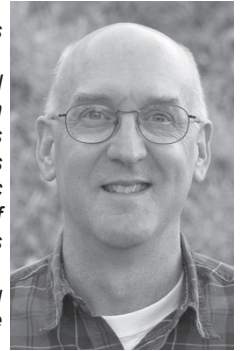
Visit www.ncsbe.gov/webapps/pollingplace_search
or call 919-733-7173

This election, the stakes couldn't be higher.
Make sure you **cast your vote for the environment!**

Sustainable Transportation - Dave Erb - November 5

It's a rare environmentalist who isn't already convinced of the need for a shift to more sustainable transportation. But how does that play out in practice? What are the most effective steps to get there? And what are the most worrisome potholes along the road? Join us on November 5 when automotive engineer Dave Erb will give a transportation presentation for people who need to discuss the how's of sustainability, rather than the whys. And, since electrified powertrains figure heavily in any future worth creating, a chorus of plug-in vehicle owners will offer a panel discussion of their experiences.

In 30 years as an automotive engineer, Dave Erb has developed vehicles employing gasoline, diesel, biodiesel, alcohol, natural gas, electric, and hybrid electric powertrains. He began working on hybrids while employed by a transit bus manufacturer in 1986, and has focused his career on electric and hybrid electric vehicles since 1991. He is the Vice Chair of the Asheville Transit Commission, and is past Chair of the Wenoca Group ExCom. Dave lives on a small lot within walking distance of UNC Asheville, where he teaches Mechatronics Engineering.



Dave Erb

Holiday Party - December 3

All are warmly invited to WENOCA Sierra Club Group's 5th Annual Holiday Party and Recognition Awards at 7 PM on December 3 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Asheville. Last year about 60 folks ate, drank, and were merry. Recognition awards were presented to community leaders.

Please bring a potluck dish to share and a book to swap, as well as laughter and good cheer.



Please Vote for the Sierra Club Executive Committee Members in November and December. An annual report will be mailed by our NC state office with instructions.

'Wilderness Act' Celebrates 50 Years - Brent Martin - January 7



Brent Martin

Join us on January 7 when Brent Martin will speak on the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act and its relevance to North Carolina. He will also speak about current opportunities for new Wilderness in North Carolina with the Nantahala-Pisgah Forest plan revision and how citizens and organizations can become involved in this process.

The Wilderness Act is considered one of America's greatest conservation achievements. The act created our National Wilderness Preservation System which currently has 109 million acres. The act also provides the means for Americans to induct further unspoiled areas into the system.

"Wilderness areas" represent the nation's highest form of land protection. No roads, vehicles or permanent structures are allowed in designated wilderness, and a wilderness designation prohibits activities like logging or mining.

Brent Martin is Southern Appalachian Regional Director and a lifetime conservationist who lives in the historic Cowee community of western North Carolina. During his career in conservation he has worked for the Armuchee Alliance, Georgia Forestwatch, the Land Trust for the Little Tennessee and The Wilderness Society. He has an MA and an ABD from Georgia State University in History, focusing on land use patterns and the environmental history of the northwest Georgia mountains.

Brent enjoys fishing, writing, gardening and a variety of cultural and natural studies. He has published four chapbook collections of poetry and his environmental essays have appeared in North Carolina Literary Review, Eno Journal, New Southerner, Kudzu Review, Smoky Mountain News and elsewhere.



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

WENOCA member emails are requested.

Send your email address to: judymattox@sbcglobal.net.



People's Climate March 2014

By Mary Olson

The week that the People's Climate March was publicly announced I got an email from my friend Elana, urging me to organize a charter bus for people from Asheville to join in this historic, largest-climate-march-yet event in New York City. I had chartered buses for activists within the region, but never that far! It was some months later, after several attempts to pull together the up-front-cash needed failed, that five of us sitting in Green Sage coffee house were about to give up, when I walked my new friend Jamie, a student at Warren Wilson who said: We CAN do this, and we must. That was the charm. Where there is a true will, there is a way! Three of us there were able to cobble together most of the \$6000 needed – and happily the People's Climate March could make up the difference and also throw in a \$1000 donation. We were "ON!"

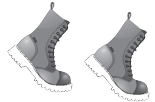
We had all known that People's Climate March would have a strong following here in Western North Carolina, and that even though the bus from Asheville was not subsidized, that it was very likely there would be 56 people willing to buy a ticket to go. We also felt it vital to raise enough money to lower the price on 10

seats for those with financial need. It worked! Inside of 2 weeks the seats were sold out.

Happily we had people willing to step up to handle the logistics of managing the trip. Most of those who pulled together the charter were, for one reason or another had to go to NYC early and not available to ride the bus. Veteran bus "Moms and Dads" stepped forward to ensure that the 20+ hours of roundtrip bus travel was safe, fun and used well.

The morning of the People's Climate March was sparkling! The air was fresh and crisp from a light rain the night before. Our bus arrived to the area the night before, and so Ashevilleans were among some of those to line up at the beginning of the march route (the entire West flank of Central Park was full by the time anyone started "moving" – making it a "STAND" for a Healthy Earth that eventually became the 410,000-strong, largest march in history.

There was also a Solidarity March on Sunday, Sept 21 at Vance Monument for people who did not go to show support for "those in our communities who are taking time out of their lives and traveling at their own expense to NYC to demand action now for the good of us all," said organizers Sherry Vaughan and Leah Song. "No less than our children's future is at stake."



Late Fall - Early Winter Hiking Schedule



SAT, NOV 1 - RATTLESNAKE LODGE FROM BULL GAP - A mostly easy 2.6 mile hike with several moderate switchbacks at the beginning to gain most of the 500 feet rise in elevation. The trail follows an old wagon road that leads to the remains of Rattlesnake Lodge, which burned in 1926. Wear sturdy footwear, dress in layers, bring water and a lunch or snack. This is hike #4 in the Introductory Hikes in the WNC Mountains Series. Meet in Asheville at 10 AM, return around 2:30 PM. RSVP to hike leader Jane at janelaping@sbcglobal.net or 828-772-0379.

SAT, NOV 1 – DUPONT STATE FOREST: CEDAR ROCK & BURNT MTN TRAILS - Meet in Asheville at 10 AM and return around 5:30 PM. This hike is Moderate/Easy. Distance approx 5.5 miles round trip. This hike starts on Corn Mill Shoals trail, then to Burnt Mtn. trail, which offers some interesting rocky areas. Back via Little River trail, and then to the top of Cedar Rock. There we'll have some great rock outcrops & nice views of the surrounding mountains. Learn about the history of this area & how it came to be designated as park land; also about an adjacent area that is a super fund site. Experienced hikers or well-conditioned folks only, due to the distance. Please RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lismcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

SAT, DEC 6 - RAINBOW ROAD TO LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN IN MONTREAT - A mostly easy 4 mile hike on a wide trail with gradual elevation gain. There will be an option to climb the rocks to the top of Lookout Mountain for views of Montreat and Black Mountain. Wear sturdy footwear, dress in layers, bring water and a lunch or snack. This is the final hike in the **Introductory Hikes in the WNC Mountains Series**. Meet in Asheville at 10 AM, return around 3:30 PM. RSVP to hike leader Jane at janelaping@sbcglobal.net or 828-772-0379.

SAT, DEC 20 – EAST FORK OF PIGEON RIVER TRAIL - Meet in Asheville at 10 AM and return around 5:30 PM. This hike is Moderate/Easy, with a distance approx 5 to 5.5 miles round trip. The hike follows the beautiful, rushing Pigeon River, but mostly it is in some beautiful & quiet woods. Be prepared for a few muddy places, wearing good footwear & considering a hiking pole. Learn about how the course of the river changes over time, as it carves through rock in some places, and then widens & creates sandy areas in others. Learn about areas that are designated "Wilderness", too. Speaking of which, this trail goes into the Shining Rock Wilderness, so only 10 folks are allowed in a group. Hence, please cancel ahead if your plans change. Sorry no doggies on this hike. Please RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lismcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

SAT, JAN 10, 2015 – SAVE THE DATE - LOCATION TBA. Location not yet confirmed, but in any case we will plan a hike that is moderate-to-easy & about 5 miles in length. (Hike leader is researching the desired location, for which we need permission for a group to enter.) Please contact hike leader Lisa McWherter for more info at lismcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

SAT, JAN 24 - AVERY CREEK/TWIN FALLS TRAIL in Pisgah National Forest near Brevard. Easy, 4 mile round trip hike along Avery Creek to three waterfalls, possibly frozen! Wear sturdy footwear and dress in layers. Bring water and lunch or a snack. Meet in Asheville at 10 AM and return about 4 PM. RSVP to hike leader Jane at janelaping@sbcglobal.net or 828-772-0379.

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

Emma Greenbaum - Beyond Coal - 828-251-1272



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Help Elect Environmental Leaders in Western North Carolina ... We Need You!

In the coming weeks, thousands of people in Buncombe County and the rest of WNC will be heading to the polls to elect new leaders for state and local governments. But for us to elect environmental champions to protect the future of our state, we're going to need YOU!

This election is more important than ever. In just a few short years, the General Assembly has undone protections that took decades to put in place, to the benefit of a few special interests and at the expense of our communities and the environment. The same could be true for Buncombe County where we risk losing a pro-environmental majority on the County Commission, putting some of our most important environmental protections in jeopardy. Will you join our team of activists to ensure that Sierra Club endorsed candidates win their elections? If we want to make sure that we stop the rollbacks on critical protections for the environment and ensure progress for the future, we have to let voters know who the environmental candidates are and get out the vote for them. To volunteer, contact Britten Cleveland at britten.cleveland@sierraclub.org or call 941-979-2948.

Duke Energy Coal Plant Update to Asheville City Council

On Tuesday, October 28 at 5 PM, Duke Energy representatives will present an update at the Asheville City Council meeting on the future of the Asheville coal-fired power plant at Lake Julian. Duke Energy is required to remove all the coal ash from the impoundments at the Asheville plant and is currently considering the option of retiring the plant. This update comes as we approach the one-year anniversary of City Council unanimously passing the Clean Energy Resolution, that called on Duke Energy to partner with the city to help reduce carbon emissions and transition off of fossil fuels. Come to learn more and show your support as we call on Duke Energy to make the right decision for Western North Carolina and retire the coal plant. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, Asheville City Hall Building, 70 Court Plaza downtown.