



WENOCA SIERRAN

Newsletter of the Western North Carolina Sierra Club
OCT 206-JAN 2018

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Upcoming Events:

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

Wednesday, Nov 1

Kelly Martin
*Methane, Pipelines and
Climate Change*

Wednesday, Dec 6: Holiday Party!

*All are warmly invited to
attend our 8th Annual
Holiday Party and
Recognition awards.
Please bring a potluck
dish.*

Wednesday, Jan 3

**Marcia Bromberg
Marc Hunt**
*Greenways and
Blueways*

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

All members are invited

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

WENOCA SIERRAN is the
newsletter of the Western
North Carolina Sierra
Club. The newsletter is
published four times a year.

Methane, Pipelines, and Climate Change - Wed, Nov 1, 7pm

Kelly Martin, Director for the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign

Methane is an invisible, potent climate pollutant that is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide over a twenty year time frame and harmful to human health. The oil and gas sector is the largest industrial source of methane pollution in the United States. Kelly Martin, Director of the Sierra Club's national Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign will present on the Sierra Club's efforts to curb methane pollution by working to keep fossil fuels in the ground, stop the buildout of fracked gas pipelines and enact public health safeguards to protect our communities from this harmful pollutant.



Kelly Martin

Kelly Martin is the Director for the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels campaign, where she leads a national effort to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Kelly joined the Sierra Club in 2012 as the Beyond Coal Campaign Representative in North Carolina and Florida. She has been an environmental activist by passion and by trade for the past twenty years, getting her start as an advocate for the protection of forests in the Southern U.S. with the Dogwood Alliance. Kelly previously served as the Grants Director for Congressman Heath Shuler where she secured federal money for clean energy projects in Western North Carolina, and she is an appointed member of the City of Asheville's Clean Energy Task Force.

8th Holiday Party and Recognition Awards- December 6

Good News

- Governor Roy Cooper has delayed NC approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, is publicly opposing offshore drilling and has joined Governors from a dozen other states committed to achieving the targets for Carbon Reduction set by the Paris Climate Agreement. Who we elect makes a difference.
- A Federal Appeals court recently has ruled that another gas pipeline approval by the EPA must consider the impact of Climate Change before it can be approved. We would anticipate that the Atlantic Cost Pipeline would face a similar delay while the EPA reconsiders its impact on Climate Change.
- Clean Energy jobs outnumber all fossil fuel jobs by 2.5 to 1.
- Solar and Wind Industries are creating jobs 12 times faster than the rest of the economy.
- NC is second in the nation in installed solar capacity.
- There are over 600,000 electric cars in operation nationwide and another 200,000 will be sold this year. Prices continue to come down to point where they are becoming competitive with gas powered cars and battery technology now allows electric cars to go over 200 miles between charges.
- Buncombe County is working on a project to build a solar farm on an old landfill that will provide enough electricity to power 1100 homes.
- A number of mayors and governors have reacted to the US pulling out of the Paris Agreement by stating their states and cities are still committed to meeting the goals of the Agreement, including Asheville's Mayor, Esther Manheimer and the Mayor of Franklin NC.
- Nationally, over 250 Coal Power Plants have announced they are shutting down, including the one in Buncombe County.
- Duke Energy has reduced their carbon emissions by 30% since 2005 and has a goal of reducing them by 40% by 2030.

Help us save trees...let us e-mail your newsletter! Send your email to judymattox@sbcglobal.net

Greenways and Blueways Wednesday, January 3, 7 pm

Marcia Bromberg, President of Connect Buncombe

Marc Hunt, Woodfin Greenway & Blueway

Why Greenways? Why should a community invest in greenways? What value are they to citizens and to the well-being of a community as a whole? Learn about how greenways and bikeways not only offer a safe, convenient and free place for citizens and visitors to recreate, but also how they improve community health and well-being, offer non-motorized transportation options, positively impact the environment and have shown to provide a major economic impact. It takes citizen interest and involvement to "make greenways happen." Learn about how you can be part of the greenway movement in Buncombe County.

Woodfin Greenway & Blueway, to be developed by the Town of Woodfin and Buncombe County, is a visionary \$13.9 million public project that will include five miles of new greenway fronting on the French Broad River and Beaverdam Creek, new access facilities for the river, a new public park located near Silver-Line Plastics, and development of the Whitewater Wave - an in-stream feature at Woodfin's Riverside Park. The project will promote recreation, conservation and water quality, economic development, and quality of life for regional residents. In his audio/visual presentation, Marc Hunt will provide an overview of the project including a "virtual tour", project plans, timelines, budgets, and fundraising strategies. The project website is woodfingreenwayandblueway.org.



**Marcia
Bromberg**

Marcia Bromberg, resident of Asheville, is a founding member and president of Connect Buncombe, a greenway advocacy organization. She has served as treasurer and board chair of MANNA Foodbank in Asheville, NC; president of the Carolina Mountain Club; board member and chair of the investment committee for the Middlesex County Community Foundation in Connecticut; and chairperson of the New Orleans Metropolitan Area Committee's Education Fund Board. She has over twenty-five years of experience in higher education and nonprofit administration and finance.

Marc Hunt has spent 17 years as a whitewater outfitter in Tennessee and North Carolina, first as founder of Sunburst Adventures on the Ocoee River, and later as CFO and then board chairman at Nantahala Outdoor Center. After moving to Asheville in 1995, he served in leadership roles in economic and community development with Self-Help Credit Union and in land conservation with Open Space Institute. He was elected to Asheville City Council in 2011, and served as vice-mayor for two years. The Wenoca group of the Sierra Club honored him as "Green Elected Official of the Year" for 2015. Marc currently volunteers as fundraising coordinator for Friends of Woodfin Greenway & Blueway.



Marc Hunt

Update on NC Legislature Actions -- Summer, 2017

The NC Sierra Club is an environmental and political organization – which means the state Chapter has an office, staff and a lobbyist in Raleigh to advocate for the environment at the General Assembly. It's important for WNC Sierrans to lobby legislators in-district as well to ensure they know that protecting the environment is a top priority for constituents.

Legislative Wins and Losses

The biggest victory was defeating a really bad billboard bill. This is the first time we have been able to defeat the billboard lobby on a bill before the legislature. We also prevented any bills from passing that would have eliminated our renewable energy requirements. A bill passed that would lead to a possible doubling of solar energy going forward and allow some form of solar leasing for companies, the military and universities. It also would allow community solar farms. We also prevented any bills from passing that would have eliminated our renewable energy requirements. Governor Cooper vetoed another bad regulatory reform bill that would among other things overturn the plastic bag ordinances in coastal communities, reduce local environmental controls by allowing private trash companies to store trash in unregulated landfills, and reduce buffer zones along our rivers and streams. Unfortunately, the legislature recently overrode his veto so it will become law. The Governor also vetoed a bill that would allow water with toxic chemicals from landfills to be sprayed into the air to evaporate and one that limits state environmental regulations at the local level and for government projects will be voted on.

Please thank Terry Van Duyn, Susan Fisher, John Ager, and Brian Turner of Buncombe County who all voted the right way on all of the environmental bills as did Chuck McGrady of Henderson County. All other representatives in Western NC voted incorrectly on almost all of these bills.

WENOCA Volunteers Needed: contact judymatttox@sbcglobal.net, 828-683-2176

Hiking Schedule

SAT, NOV 4: BUCK SPRING - Join us for this early November high elevation hike from the Pisgah Inn to US Hwy 276. Approximately 6.2 miles (one-way) with car shuttle. Moderate with minimal elevation gain, but mostly follows the contour. Buck Spring Trail is also designated the Mountains to the Sea Trail along this route. We'll learn about the developing forest Plan for the Pisgah District. RSVP to hike leader, David Reid, at daviddbreid@charter.net or 828-713-1607.

SAT, NOV 11: CEDAR ROCK & BURNT MTN - in Dupont State Forest. Meet in Asheville at 10:00 and return around 5:30. This hike is Moderate/Easy. Distance approx 5.5 miles round trip. The hike starts at 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 lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

TUES, NOV 14: COONTREE - This moderate 3.7 mile loop trail begins and ends at the Coontree Picnic area on Hwy 276 near Brevard. A perfect mid-November outing along Coontree Creek. The leaves will be gone, but we'll learn some common winter-time tree identification. RSVP to hike leader, David Reid, at daviddbreid@charter.net or 828-713-1607.

SAT, DEC 2: CAESAR'S HEAD - in S Carolina. Meet in Asheville at 10:00 and return around 5:30. Great views from Caesar's Head & some small but nice waterfalls on the trails. Mostly Easy & with Moderate level difficulty. Approx 5 miles round trip. More hike details to come. We will learn a few things about winter tree I.D., and possibly bird I.D. by their songs. Be prepared for \$2.00/person park admission fee. NOTE if there is snow we will come up with an alternate hike that's closer to Asheville (if roads are open). RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

SAT, DEC 9: GREENLAND CREEK - There are at least 3 waterfalls planned on this trip, with an option by unanimous consent to hike a little further for an additional waterfall. There may be some early wildflowers. We will learn about unique features, and how the tract was acquired by the US Forest Service. Plan for an all-day trip for the estimated 5 mile hike and 3 hours round trip driving time. Experienced hikers only. Good hiking shoes/boots required. Hiking poles encouraged. Call trip leader for details. Leader – David Reid, 828-713-1607. daviddbreid@charter.net.

SAT, JAN 6: NEW YEAR'S MONTREAT - Join us for this short moderate loop trail in Montreat near Black Mountain. We'll take parts of Greybeard, Harry Bryan and Julia Woodward trails. Learn about the conservation efforts of the Montreat Conference Center, and how its land abuts other important protected areas. RSVP to hike leader, David Reid, at daviddbreid@charter.net or 828-713-1607.

SAT, JAN 27: LOVELY STRETCH of MTNS to SEA TRAIL - from Chestnut Cove Overlook to Bent Creek Gap, Approx 5.2 miles R.T. Mostly Easy with some Moderate (largely due to tree roots & rocks, not elevation). Meet in Asheville at 10:30 & return around 3:30. This is FAVORITE WINTER HIKE of mine, being that the trail moves away from the busy road, & it is Bike-Free, making it a mostly quiet place. Also, because there is interesting terrain, and it is largely sheltered from cold winds. Features tunnels formed from Laurels & Rhododendrens. Opportunity for some winter tree ID, and perhaps bird I.D. (by their songs). This trail is accessible from Bent Creek Rd, if the Parkway is closed. Hiking poles recommended for a small creek crossing. RSVP to hike leader Lisa McWherter at lisamcw2@gmail.com or 828-713-4994.

Energy Savers

The Sierra Club is starting an Energy Savers team! Partnering with Energy Savers Network, our volunteer team will help empower our community to move to a cleaner energy future. By working with lower income families to reduce their energy use, our team will learn new skills, assist others to learn new skills, reduce wasteful energy use, reduce the high energy cost burden on lower income families, and build community. And every upgrade we make is a small step toward solving the climate problem and reducing the financial power of fossil fuel companies.

Energy Savers Network(ESN), founded a little less than a year ago, bring together the supplies, the expertise, and the clients while we will bring together a team to go out and do the work. Typical measures include installing LED lighting, weather stripping, water conservation devices, and air sealing. ESN also builds custom interior storm windows (picture) that affordably reduce heat loss through older single pane windows. ESN volunteers have helped 60 families to date.

Please "get in on the ground floor" by joining our team! Judy Mattox is organizing our efforts and would welcome a call to discuss how you can help. Training will be provided and we could use organizational as well as "hands on" help in building this movement. And ESN welcomes you to join volunteer workdays with other members of their team by signing up on <http://www.energysaversnetwork.com/get-involved/> or by emailing, by contacting them at info@energysaversnetwork.com, or by "liking" their "Energy Savers Network" page on Facebook.

Contact: judymattox@sbcglobal.net, 828-683-2176



Weatherizing Windows

Youth for Environmental Stewardship (YES!)



A new environmental initiative has sprouted in our community. Youth for Environmental Stewardship (YES) is an initiative which aims at connecting youth in our local high schools and universities in attempt to unite their efforts as they protect and invest in our environment. In addition to two organizational meetings, the group participated on Sunday Sept 10th in a river clean up in collaboration with Greenworks of Asheville. Twenty-five students and 3 teachers from Buncombe County and Asheville high schools participated.

Currently involved are North Buncombe High School, Enka High School, Silsa High in Asheville High School, Nesbitt Discovery Academy, the University of North Carolina Asheville Student Environmental Center. We would like to have every high school and college in Buncombe County involved.

Youth for Environmental Stewardship's (YES) meetings will be held every third Wednesdays at 6:00 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, 1 Edwin Place, Asheville, NC (downstairs in Room 4).

Contact: Judy Mattox, judymattox@sbcglobal.net, 828-683-2176, and Jamileh at jamilehmikati@icloud.com or text 850-264-009.



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Kids to the Country

Sierra Club has created a program for Asheville Hillcrest and Pisgah View Apartments city kids ages 7-16, to be introduced to the country. We call this program affectionately "Kids to the Country." Our partners are the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, the Asheville Housing Authority, Asheville City Schools, Hillcrest community, MotherRead--a program of the Unitarian Congregation, and the Boy Scouts.



During the summer every other Friday mornings from June 23 to Aug 18, we hiked and laughed and were introduced to wonderful aspects of nature: snakes, butterflies, tadpoles, goats, cows, chickens, blueberries, blackberries at the Blue Ridge Visitor Center, Carl Sandburg National Park and goat farm, the Asheville North Carolina Arboretum, at a blueberry picking farm, and the Warren Wilson animal farm and garden.

We have now switched over to the Fall, and on Saturday September 30 we hiked to the top of Craggy Pinnacle on the Blue Ridge Parkway. All were amazed by the 360 degree view of our beautiful mountains. We learned from the Boy Scouts the need to respect and to protect our wonderful heritage.

Thanks to all our volunteers who make "Kids to the Country" happen: Beth Pape, Judy Mattox, Eleanor Lane, Joanne Lazar, JD Diefenbach, Marta Alcala-Williams, Nikita Smart, Sade Mustakem, Maryanne Rackoff, Mayo Taylor, Susie Bell, Ellen Feingold, Marsha Fretwell, Scott Varn. For further information: Beth Pape, adwoman123@yahoo.com, 978-729-3356.