



SIERRA CLUB

The William Bartram Group
Serving Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburg, and Union Counties

Bartram Bulletin

Volume 47, Number 3

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet.

April 2017

April Event

Wednesday, April 19
6:30 P.M.

Environmentally Responsible Beer 2.0 *Michael Corley*

The Community Tap
217 Wade Hampton Blvd.
Greenville, SC

Environmentally Responsible Beer 2.0!

by Michael Corley

After the success of last year's "beer event," we are excited that the time has come to do it again. On Wednesday, April 19, we are getting together for drinks and fellowship at **The Community Tap** at 217 Wade Hampton Boulevard in Greenville.

We've rented their tasting room and hope you can join us. Come enjoy this opportunity to have fun and meet nice people, from 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

This event is taking the place of our normal monthly meeting. But note that this is an hour earlier than our typical meeting time.



May Event

Wednesday, May 17
6:30 P.M.

Annual Picnic *Cleveland Park*



Celebrate Earth Day April 22

Education is the foundation for progress. We need to build a global citizenry fluent in the concepts of climate change and aware of its unprecedented threat to our planet. We need to empower everyone with the knowledge to inspire action in defense of environmental protection.

Environmental and climate literacy is the engine not only for creating green voters and advancing environmental and climate laws and policies but also for accelerating green technologies and jobs.

The William Bartram Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except July) at Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
1135 State Park Road
Greenville, SC 29609
at 7:30 P.M.
unless otherwise noted.



see web site for directions
<http://sierraUpstate.org>

May Event

by Bob Church

Time for the Annual Picnic in the Park

Our May meeting will be in Greenville's Cleveland Park at shelter #6 on Lakehurst Dive (the first right off Clevervine Avenue from E. Washington Street) on Wednesday, May 17 at 6:30 P.M. This is the same site we had last year and is close to the Fernwood Trail. Please bring a covered dish. Bottled water will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy fellowship with fellow Sierrans and check out the newly marked Fernwood Trail.



Outings

and Dates to Remember

Nonmembers of the Sierra Club are welcome to join us on our outings. Please call the trip leader to let him/her know that you are going. She/he can then give you a location to meet as well as information on last minute changes. Discuss how strenuous the trip is, and any health problems you may have of which she/he should be aware. Please, no pets, guns, radios, etc. on hikes. Interested in leading a trip? Call Jean Wilder, (864) 244-9630.

In order to participate on one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <<http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms>> or call (415) 977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Carpooling, ride sharing, or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Adopt-a-Highway

The dates as scheduled by DOT for 2017 are: May 20, August 26, November 18

Saturday, May 20 • Adopt-a-Highway

We have a two mile stretch on East North (also known as) Old Spartanburg Road between Mitchell Road and Brushy Creek. We will meet at 9:00 A.M. at Mitchell Road Elementary School which is on the corner of Mitchell Road and Old Spartanburg Road. If it is pouring rain, we'll not meet. You will be provided the bags, twisty ties, work gloves, orange safety vests and water. We cover two miles, both sides of the street, and are very fortunate to have sidewalks on the entire route. Contact Brandi McCauley at brandimc81@gmail.com for details or to let her know you will join us.

Other Events of Interest

Saturday, April 15, 2017 • Party for the Planet

Mark your calendars! The Greenville Zoo wants to invite you to a celebration of Planet Earth! 9:00 A.M. -1:00 P.M. The booths will be interactive and/or displaying conservation efforts and promoting environmental health and awareness. Since this is spring break, over 2,000 guests are expected.



Saturday, April 22 • Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day!

Sierra in Action

Thanks to volunteers **Brandi McCauley, Dave Wilder, Trish Cartwright, Bob Church, Jennifer Hudson, Alexis Hudson, and Charles Hudson.** They picked up 11 bags of trash on February 25 for Adopt-a-Highway.



Saturday
April 22
2017

We know now what was unknown to all the preceding caravan of generations: that men are only fellow-voyagers with other creatures in the odyssey of evolution. This new knowledge should have given us, by this time, a sense of kinship with fellow-creatures; a wish to live and let live; a sense of wonder over the magnitude and duration of the biotic enterprise.

~ Aldo Leopold

Join Us On Facebook



The Bartram Group of the Sierra Club—Upstate, SC

Deadline for May bulletin is Friday, April 21.

Send your submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com

Rapid Response Advocacy

The South Carolina Legislature has shortened its session and changed its procedural rules. Further, the Legislature has failed to pass legislation to fully disclose campaign contributions (dark money). At the March meeting, Kathleen Kempe, from the Greenville County League of Women Voters, explained how these events now require a more focused and quicker approach for citizens to be effective when dealing with their elected officials.

This is very important in the area of environmental protection and preservation of our public natural spaces. With proposed deep cuts to the federal environmental protection agency (EPA), the people of South Carolina will have to depend on SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Unfortunately, due to years of budget cuts and Governors who chose to appoint people who lack a commitment to a clean environment to its board of directors, DHEC's environmental protection resources are limited. Over the years, the major challenges to hazardous waste dumping and development that is destructive to our natural resources have not come from DHEC. Average citizens and groups like the Sierra Club have taken the lead. They are able to do this because under SC law citizens and the organizations they belong to are allowed to challenge permits issued by DHEC for development projects that impact the environment.

Using a procedural move, the SC Senate quickly passed by 1st and then 2nd reading a bill that eliminates the process that citizens have successfully used for decades to challenge DHEC permits they believe are erroneously issued. The Senate voted to change the law on the Automatic Stay so that it can no longer be used by citizens to effectively protect the environment. The law was changed so that the time frames make it all but impossible to comply with. Which was exactly what the anti-environmental community wanted. Their goal was to shut out and shut down the concerns of citizens and they won in the Senate.

Our focus must now turn to the SC House and we need to do so quickly.

The Sierra Club wants to create Rapid Response Advocacy to balance out the money and influence of lobbyists working full time to keep us from having the laws we need to protect the environment. And we need

members who are willing to focus their advocacy when and where it is needed. We need Rapid Responders (RR). Here is the proposed plan for Rapid Response Advocacy: The Sierra Club will:

- Identify the members of the Legislature that need to be contacted and will identify those individuals (the Rapid Responders) who are willing to focus their advocacy when it is needed and who reside in that district.
- Send out a rapid advocacy request with a fact sheet on the issue. In the best of all worlds, you will have already gotten, through the web page or bulletin or the news, some information on the issue. But if not, the fact sheets will be designed to bring you up to date.

The Rapid Responders will:

- Sign up for this responsibility by providing their address (so we know what districts they are in) and the method by which they want to be contacted.
- Be willing to contact the representatives in a short time frame (1-4 hours) to ask them to endorse or oppose ("vote yes or no"). RRs will be provided with a fact sheet on the issue at the time of the request for action.
- Inform Sierra Club of the results of their contact effort.

The Sierra Club will:

- Report back to the Rapid Responders on the results. At our March meeting, after learning about the Senate vote on the Automatic Stay, people signed up to be Rapid Responders. They like the idea that their efforts are timed to make a difference. We need folks from each legislative district.

If you want to be involved in this bold new idea, please send the following information to Sobczakr@yahoo.com.

What we need from folks willing to be a Rapid Responder for the Sierra Club:

- Name
- Address
- Preferred method to receive call to action alerts (text/email/phone call)
- Level of contact they are willing to make (phone call, email, personal visit to legislator, or any combination of these) 🐾

Here's How To Avoid Poison Ivy and Poison Oak And Treat Them If Disaster Strikes

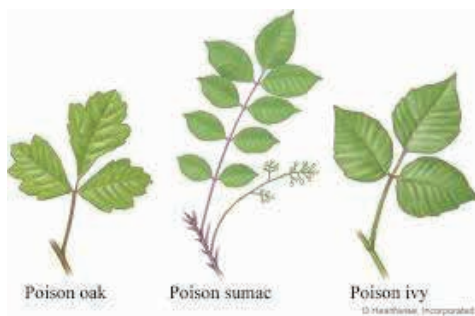
Posted on Thursday, July 16, 2015 by eNature

Knowing how to avoid poison ivy is a good skill—but you should also know what to do if you happen to encounter it.

As we move into the summer season, people across the country will celebrate and enjoy it by taking weekend hikes through places scenic and undisturbed. Most of folks will return from their hikes revived, but some will find themselves itchy afterwards.

It's inevitable. And it's unfortunate, too, because there are ways to avoid the adverse effects of Poison Ivy and Poison Oak.

Actually, five species of rash-inducing plants flourish in North America: two species of Poison Ivy, two species of Poison Oak, and Poison Sumac. The last



is a wetland plant and not nearly as common or commonly encountered as the others. One

or more of these species is pretty common throughout the country, particularly along the edges of woodlands.

And all contain the same essential oil that irritates human skin.

Urushiol is its name, and it exists in the roots, stems, leaves, and even the berries of these plants. Roughly 85 percent of the population is allergic to Urushiol, which can cause a rash in sensitive people who come into contact with as little as one millionth of a gram of the stuff. And all of these plants are more than willing to share their Urushiol if they are bruised, crushed, or opened up in any way.

Thus it's important for people to know how to identify these plants. Most field guides, including eNature's online version, provide concise descriptions and photos. But even the most attentive hiker can inadvertently brush against a Poison Ivy or Poison Oak leaf.

When that happens, there are two ways to rid the skin of Urushiol.

The first involves washing the affected area with great amounts of water. Plain water is best, since soap

The Green Spot
Sharing the Green



DIY Ideas for Stormwater

- Reroute stormwater coming from your downspout into the yard rather than the driveway.
- Capture rain in a rain barrel and save money by watering your garden with it.
- Build a rain garden using native plants. Rain gardens function as a bowl, reducing stormwater runoff by 90% or more.
- Native plants require less effort to grow and less money to maintain since they're already conditioned to the environment.
- Install permeable pavement that will allow water to soak through a sidewalk or driveway to the ground.

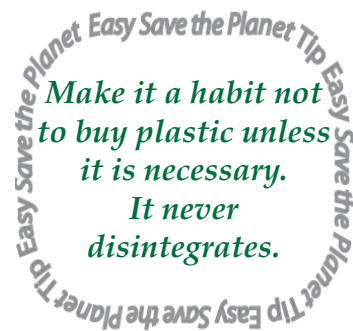
Member contributions are welcomed. Send your green submissions to wbartramnews@gmail.com

has no effect on Urushiol and when used with only a little water it can actually spread the offending oil. So use room-temperature water and lots of it.

To be clear, we're not saying here to avoid using soap! Just be sure to use lots of water if you do—the object here is to get the oil off, not redistribute to other parts of your skin.

The second way to rid the skin of Urushiol is to swab with rubbing alcohol. The alcohol counteracts the oil and can even draw oil from the skin four or five hours after exposure. Waiting any longer than that, though, is inadvisable.

Whether cleaning with water or alcohol, use care. Don't scrub violently—it does no good and can actually do harm. Similarly, don't use very hot water or harsh soaps and chemicals. The point is to remove the oil, not to annihilate it. 🐸



Updated Website!

Check out our newly updated website, new website address:
<http://sierraUpstate.org>